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The Truth Speaks

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RAM TEMPLE 'DWAJAROHAN'

Centuries-old pain put to rest: Modi

The ceremonial hoisting of saffron 'Dharma Dhwaja' atop the Sri Ram Temple in Ayodhya marked its formal completion; PM Modi urges citizens to "awaken the Ram within" to realize India's 'super power' dream

AYODHYA (UTTAR PRADESH)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said India and the world are immersed in Ram, as he described the installation of the Dharma Dhwaja atop the newly-constructed Ram Temple as a moment that heals "wounds of centuries" and marks the fulfilment of a civilisational resolve kept alive for 500 years.

Modi along with RSS Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat ceremonially hoisted the saffron flag (Dharma Dhwaja) on the Shikhar of the Ram Temple, which marked the ceremonial completion of its construction.

DHARMA DHWAJA

The right-angled triangular flag, measuring 10 feet in height and 20 feet in length, bears the image of a radiant Sun symbolising the brilliance and valour of Bhagwan Shri Ram, with an 'Om' inscribed on it along with the image of the Kovidara tree.

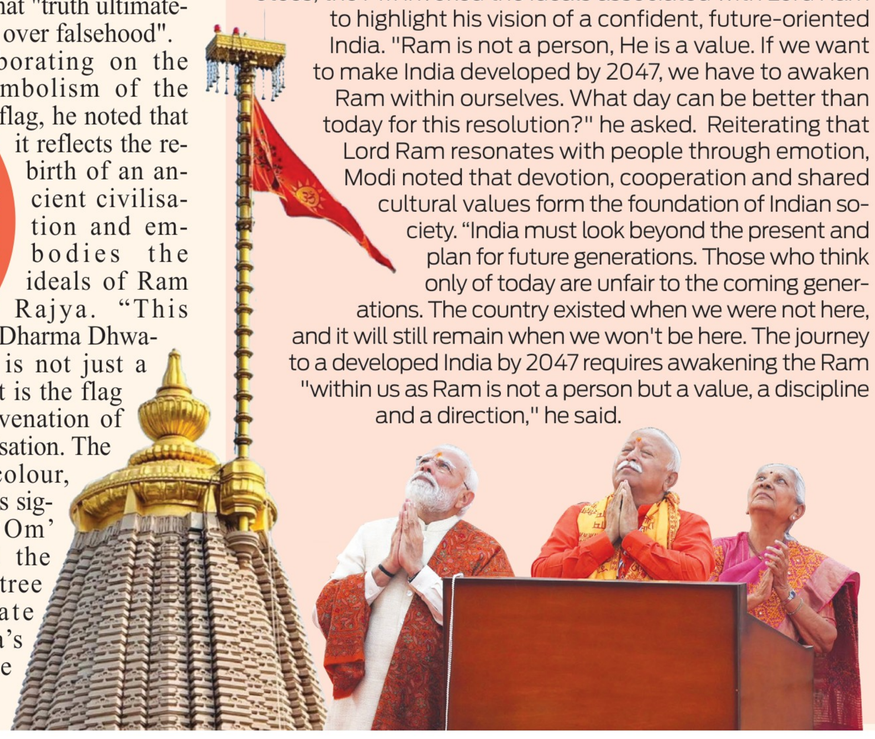
Addressing the gathering at the 'Dwajarohan' ceremony, the PM said, "The moment symbolised a cultural resurgence for the nation. There is extraordinary satisfaction in the heart of every Ram devotee. There is boundless gratitude. There is unfathomable supernatural bliss. The wounds of centuries are being healed. Centuries-old wounds are healing, centuries-long pain is finding closure, as the resolve that burned for 500 years finally reached its fulfilment."

"Today, the energy of Lord Ram is established at the 'shikhar' of the Grand Ram Temple in the form of this Dharma Dhwaja," he said. Terming the flag-hoisting "a unique and divine moment", the PM said the sacred flag atop the Ram temple would stand as a testimony to the fact that "truth ultimately triumphs over falsehood".

Elaborating on the symbolism of the flag, he noted that it reflects the rebirth of an ancient civilisation and embodies the ideals of Ram Rajya. "This Dharma Dhwaja is not just a flag. It is the flag of the rejuvenation of Indian civilisation. The Saffron colour, Suryavansh's signia, the 'Om' word, and the Kovidara tree impersonate Ram Rajya's glory" he added.

In Ayodhya, Modi outlines roadmap for Viksit Bharat @ 2047

India must draw strength from its civilisational roots and break free from the British-era legacy of slave mentality to become a super power' Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh): Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the raising of the Dharma Dhwaja (flag) atop the Ram Janmabhoomi Temple as a "historic" moment, saying India must draw strength from its civilisational roots while shedding its "slave mentality" in order to become a super power by 2047. Addressing devotees, the PM invoked the ideals associated with Lord Ram to highlight his vision of a confident, future-oriented India. "Ram is not a person, He is a value. If we want to make India developed by 2047, we have to awaken Ram within ourselves. What day can be better than today for this resolution?" he asked. Reiterating that Lord Ram resonates with people through emotion, Modi noted that devotion, cooperation and shared cultural values form the foundation of Indian society. "India must look beyond the present and plan for future generations. Those who think only of today are unfair to the coming generations. The country existed when we were not here, and it will still remain when we won't be here. The journey to a developed India by 2047 requires awakening the Ram "within us as Ram is not a person but a value, a discipline and a direction," he said.



"The centenary of India's Independence in 2047 must mark the realisation of the goal of a 'Viksit Bharat'

—Narendra Modi, PM

PM Modi remembers the sacrifice of Guru Teg Bahadur Ji

KURUKSHETRA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday attended a special programme marking the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru, in Kurukshetra. Addressing the gathering, the PM paid tributes to Guru Tegh Bahadur, calling him the repository of truth, justice and faith. He also released special coin and commemorative stamp to mark the anniversary of Guru. "Standing on this very land of Kurukshetra, Lord Krishna declared the protection of truth and justice as the greatest religion... Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji also considered the protection of truth, justice, and faith as his religion, he added.

Human talent irreplaceable by AI, robots: Shukla

BENGALURU

The talent of humans to correct things without delay and think about 10 things at a time cannot be done by robots and AI, said Gaganyatri Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla.

He was speaking at an 'Astronaut- Student Interaction Programme', organised by Bengaluru's Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium along with the Karnataka Science and Technology Promotion Society at the planetarium here on Tuesday.

To a question on whether ISRO's cost-effective image will hamper future space missions, he said: "I do not think being cost- effective is at the cost of safety of astronauts and the space mission. We are being cost-effective in terms of global standards and that will not hinder the future of missions."

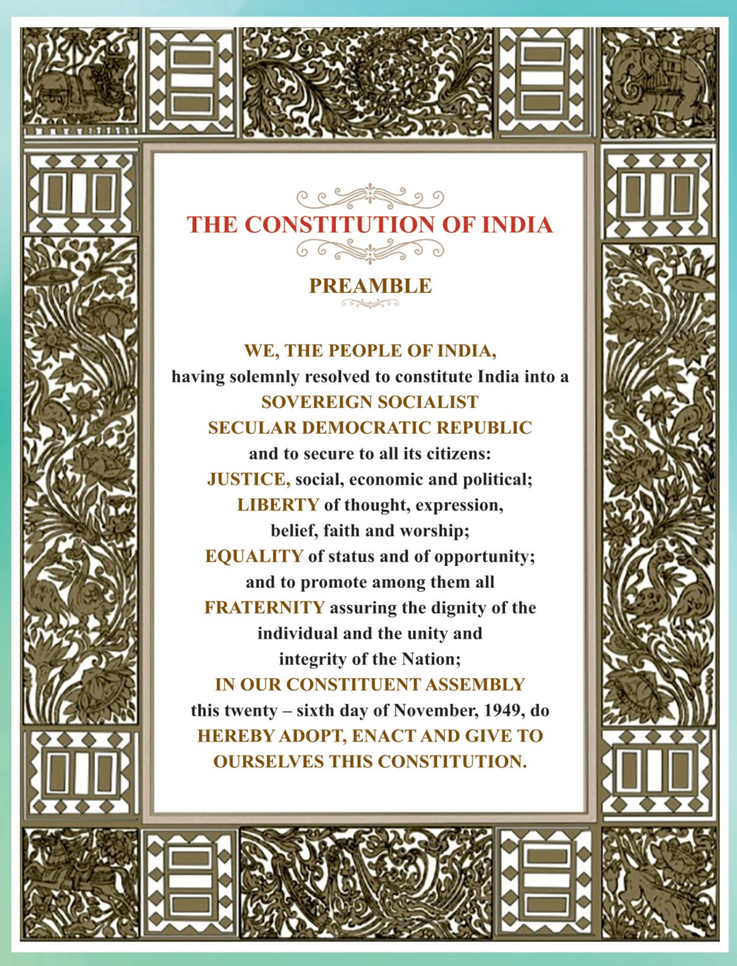
To a question on 'why do we need spacecrafts, why can we not use robotics and AI? he replied the challenge would be to see and preplan everything for robots.

Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla being felicitated by CM Siddaramaiah at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Tuesday ▸ CH Photo

IAS officer Bilagi killed in car accident

Kalaburagi: A tragic car accident near Gounalli Cross in Jewargi taluk in Kalaburagi district claimed the lives of senior Karnataka IAS officer Mahantesh Bilagi, who was serving as the Managing Director of the Karnataka State Minerals Corporation, along with two others. According to reports, Bilagi and his relatives were travelling from Ramdurg in Belagavi district to Kalaburagi to attend a family wedding. The car reportedly overturned after the driver lost control when a dog suddenly crossed the road. The accident resulted in the deaths of Mahantesh Bilagi, his brother Shankar Bilagi, and Eeranna Shirasangi.

"Education is the most important weapon to raise the standard of living of the people"
-Dr. B.R. Ambedkar



THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

PREAMBLE

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA,
having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a
SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST
SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
and to secure to all its citizens:
JUSTICE, social, economic and political;
LIBERTY of thought, expression,
belief, faith and worship;
EQUALITY of status and of opportunity;
and to promote among them all
FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the
individual and the unity and
integrity of the Nation;
IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY
this twenty – sixth day of November, 1949, do
HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO
OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

Constitution Day Celebration
For Liberty, Equality, Fraternity

Stage Programme

Date: 26.11.2025, Wednesday at 11.00 AM. Venue: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru.

Inauguration
Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka

August Presence

Sri Basavaraj Shivalingappa Horatti
Hon'ble Chairman,
Karnataka Legislative Council

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister,
Government of Karnataka

Sri U. T. Khader Fareed
Hon'ble Speaker,
Karnataka Legislative Assembly

Presided by
Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa
Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare,
Government of Karnataka

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Social Welfare Department

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare
will Flag off the 'Walkathon Jatha' at 10.00 AM
from Grand Steps of Vidhana Soudha to
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan.

Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare, speaking on the democratic principles enshrined in the Constitution of India.

As is enshrined in our Constitution, to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

All are cordially invited

Randeep D., IAS, Secretary to Government

Dr. Rakesh Kumar K., IAS, Commissioner

Vande Bharat Thanisandra Depot Tender Deadline Extended

Railways extend bid deadline for Thanisandra depot crucial for sleepers

BENGALURU

The South Western Railway has extended the bid submission deadline for constructing a dedicated depot to maintain Vande Bharat sleeper trains in Thanisandra, a facility that is expected to play a key role in enhancing Bengaluru's railway infrastructure. Tenders were originally invited in July under the Engineering, Construction and Procurement (ECP) model, with the deadline set for November 21. This has now been extended to December 12, allowing more time for bidders to participate.

The decision to build the depot comes as the Railways prepares to roll out its next major upgrade—Vande Bharat Sleeper trains—following the success of the seater versions. Sleeper train production is currently progressing at full speed, and the Railway Board has identified five locations across the country to host specialised depots. Thanisandra, located between Channasandra and Yelahanka railway stations and adjacent to the now-defunct Thanisandra station, has been selected as one of these sites. The planned facility, capable of handling 16 coaches, carries an estimated project cost of ₹227.94 crore.

The construction of the Thanisandra Vande Bharat maintenance depot is a welcome move. However, delays in the tendering process must be minimised to prevent future slowdowns, said K.N. Krishna Prasad of the Karnataka Railway Forum.

This development complements ongoing capacity expansion across Bengaluru's rail network. At the Banaswadi MEMU shed, an additional ₹50 crore is being invested to enhance maintenance capabilities for Vande Bharat seater trains. Similarly, the Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal in Byappanahalli is set to receive a fourth pit line at a cost of ₹123 crore, strengthening overall operational efficiency.

Railway officials confirmed that two prototype Vande Bharat sleeper trains have already been manufactured at BEML's Chennai Integral Coach Factory (ICF) but are yet to be released due to technical reasons.

Karnataka State to Abolish Outsourced Recruitment by 2028

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government is preparing to completely abolish outsourced recruitment in all government departments by 2028, a major administrative shift aimed at curbing exploitation and ensuring transparency in public-sector employment. As part of this initiative, the government is also planning to introduce a Ban on Private Outsourcing in Government Institutions Bill during the Belagavi winter session beginning December 8. The decision follows widespread complaints that private outsourcing agencies have been exploiting employees through delayed salaries, non-payment of Provident Fund (PF) and Employee State Insurance (ESI), and payment of wages below mandated levels. There has also been growing pressure to fill the large number of vacant government posts rather than relying on outsourced labour. A senior Labour Department official said the government intends to dismantle the outsourced recruitment system altogether, both to eliminate corruption and to protect workers from harassment by intermediary agencies.

State government moves to end outsourced hiring and introduce stricter employment regulation

According to the 2022–23 Budget Estimates, Karnataka has 7,69,982 sanctioned posts across 43 departments, of which 2,58,709 remain vacant. Despite these vacancies, departments have collectively hired more than three lakh outsourced employees—far exceeding the number of sanctioned empty posts.

This system shields outsourced employees from exploitation by agencies, which are often accused of paying below minimum wage and delaying PF and ESI contributions, Arjun said.

To ensure a smooth transition, the government will phase out all contracts with private outsourcing firms by March 31, 2028. In the interim, it plans to implement the Bidar model statewide for responsible management of outsourced labour.

Under the Bidar model, salaries and benefits are disbursed directly to contract employees through a cooperative society headed by the District Magistrate, thereby removing private agencies from the process. After departments forward the names of recruited personnel, the cooperative registers them and ensures on-time payment of wages, PF and ESI, explained Arjun Seethalagere, secretary of the Bidar District Labour Services Multipurpose Cooperative Association.

QUICK READ

Thieves Strike Yeshwanthpur Shop, Caught on CCTV

Bengaluru

A theft was reported at Brahmashree Condiments in Yeshwanthpur early Tuesday, with miscreants escaping with cash and cigarette packs. The incident occurred around 3 a.m., and the thieves' movements were captured on CCTV cameras installed inside the shop. The footage shows the burglars breaking in and quickly taking valuables before fleeing the scene. The shop owner has approached the police to file a formal complaint, and an investigation is underway to identify and trace the culprits. Police are examining the CCTV footage for leads and have intensified patrolling in the area following the latest theft.

Autorickshaw Driver Dies of Cardiac Arrest in Domlur

Bengaluru

An autorickshaw driver died of a sudden cardiac arrest while sitting down for breakfast near the EGL area in Domlur on Tuesday. According to police, the driver collapsed and died on the spot before any help could arrive. Efforts are underway to establish his identity, and the body has been shifted for postmortem examination. Police have begun an investigation and are checking with local auto stands and residents to trace the victim's details and family.

Woman Found at Youth's House; Man Beaten to Death

BENGALURU

A 32-year-old man was beaten to death in Mutyalamma Nagar, Yeswanthpur, after the family of a married woman allegedly found her at his house and attacked him in a fit of rage. The deceased has been identified as Narasimharaju. Police said the woman, who is married, frequently visited Narasimharaju's residence, and the two were suspected to be in a relationship. On Saturday (Nov. 22), the woman was reportedly inside his house when her family learned of her whereabouts. Enraged, four to five of her relatives rushed to the spot.

They allegedly dragged Narasimharaju out of his house and brutally assaulted him on the road. His mother, who tried to intervene and save her son, was also attacked and sustained injuries. Locals alerted authorities, and the injured youth was immediately shifted to K.C. General Hospital. However, doctors declared him dead shortly after admission.

A case has been registered at the Yeswanthpur Police Station. The victim's family has expressed anger and frustration, alleging that the accused are yet to be arrested despite clear involvement. Police say efforts are underway to identify and apprehend all suspects involved.

Dowry Harassment Alleged as GBA Marshal's Wife Dies by Suicide

BENGALURU

A 28-year-old woman died by suicide in Govindarajanagar amid allegations from her family that she had been subjected to dowry harassment and domestic violence by her husband. The deceased has been identified as Rekha, a native of Gokak in Belagavi district.

Rekha's parents have alleged that her husband, Mayappa — a GBA marshal — had been assaulting her regularly, especially when drunk, and was persistently harassing her for dowry. They further claimed that Rekha's death may not be suicide, but a possible murder disguised as one. Police, however, have registered a case of unnatural death and taken Mayappa into custody for questioning.

Rekha and Mayappa, both from Gokak, had met when she was a college student and he was working as a clerk in the same institution. Their relationship turned into a love marriage six years ago, and the couple later moved to Bengaluru. They were living in a rented house in Govindarajanagar with their two young children — a four-year-old daughter and a two-year-old son — both now left orphaned by the tragedy.

According to her parents, Rekha had frequently complained that her husband would beat her after drinking and demand additional dowry despite already having taken gold and silver at the time of marriage. "My daughter was a good person. His torture never stopped. He has killed her. Who will look after these two small children now? We want justice," her father said.

Police officials said the exact cause of Rekha's death will be determined after a thorough investigation. The Govindarajanagar Police are awaiting forensic reports and statements from neighbours and family members as part of the probe.

Team Formed to Probe Jayanagar Complex Fire

BENGALURU

A fire broke out on the first and second floors of a commercial complex in Jayanagar 4th Block on Monday, prompting a swift response from the South Municipal Corporation and Fire and Emergency Services. Officials rushed to the spot after receiving information and began rescue operations immediately, following the disconnection of power supply to the multi-storey structure.

During the evacuation, firefighters rescued Krishnegowda, who was trapped inside the building's lift. Another individual.

Raid on Gaming Apps: ED Seizes Bank Accounts, Bonds and Mutual Funds

BENGALURU

In a major crackdown on financial fraud in the online gaming sector, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized bank accounts, bonds, and mutual funds amounting to more than ₹527 crore during raids conducted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The ED carried out searches at offices linked to the gaming app Winjo in Bengaluru and Gurgaon, seizing deposits, bonds, and mutual fund holdings worth about ₹505 crore. According to officials, the investigation revealed that Winjo Games Private Limited had been systematically cheating customers by manipulating game outcomes using hidden algorithms and software.

The probe also uncovered that the company had created a shell entity, Winjo US Inc., through which about $55 million (approximately ₹489.9 crore) was illegally transferred from India to the U.S. and Singapore. Furthermore, authorities found that Winjo withheld ₹43 crore that should have been refunded to users even after the Central government banned real-money gaming.

In parallel action, ED officials conducted raids on two other gaming companies — Pocket-52 (Nirdesa Networks Pvt. Ltd.) and Gamescraft Technologies — following allegations of similar fraudulent practices. Investigators found that Pocket-52 allegedly predetermined game results and introduced artificial technical glitches to ensure user losses. One user reportedly lost ₹3 crore due to such systematic manipulation.

Despite the Central government enforcing the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, which bans real-money gaming, these companies continued to retain over ₹30 crore in customer escrow accounts instead of returning the funds.

The ED has seized mobile phones and laptops of the companies' directors and attached eight bank accounts containing around ₹18.57 crore. Investigations into the widespread fraud and money laundering network are ongoing.

Lorry Plunges into Lake While Avoiding Pothole; Driver Missing

BENGALURU

A 12-wheeler lorry carrying gravel plunged into Bidaraguppe Lake on the Attibele–Sarjapur Road in Anekal taluk late Monday night after the driver attempted to avoid a deep pothole. The incident occurred around 11.30 p.m., and the driver, Mahesh (37) from Kalaburagi, is feared to have drowned. According to preliminary reports, the lorry was travelling from Attibele towards Sarjapur when the driver lost control on a narrow stretch of road running directly above the lake. The road, part of the state highway, has been in poor condition for months, with potholes and chaotic traffic posing serious risks.

Although RNS Contractors was awarded the tender to upgrade the road, the lakeside stretch has not yet been widened, leading to frequent accidents.

International Flower Market Plan at GKVK Shelved Amid Tree-Felling Concerns

BENGALURU

A plan to establish an international flower market at the Gandhi Krishi Vigyan Kendra (GKVK) campus in north Bengaluru has effectively been shelved following intense public opposition over the proposed felling of nearly 900 trees. Although a review meeting held on November 12 did not arrive at a final decision, official records show that the government is seriously exploring alternative locations, placing the GKVK proposal in cold storage.

The initial proposal sparked widespread mobilisation under the Save GKVK campaign, uniting environmental activists, students, neighbourhood groups, and farmer organisations. Their primary concern was the ecological impact, as the project required either cutting or translocating a large number of mature trees.

During the November 12 meeting, officials from the horticulture and agricultural marketing departments, the University of Horticultural Sciences, and the International Flower Auction Bengaluru reassessed the plan. According to the minutes, significant reservations were expressed about situating the market inside the GKVK campus. A senior university official noted that GKVK needs 150 acres to maintain its Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) accreditation but currently has only 125 acres.

At least four potential sites are now under consideration:

- 30 acres in Byatarayanapura (currently under arbitration as per a High Court order)
- Land near Electronic City, with scope to relocate KR Market flower traders
- Upgradation of the Binnypet APMC flower market
- Implementation of the long-pending Binnypet DPR

In response, the horticulture secretary directed officials to review land-ownership documents and confirm that no legal issues obstruct the institution's boundaries.

Meanwhile, discussions on alternative sites revealed complexities. Agricultural Marketing Joint Director V. Rajanna highlighted that the Byatarayanapura land remains stuck in arbitration, while land near Electronic City could offer logistical advantages. Officials also revisited the proposal to upgrade the Binnypet APMC market — a project with a Detailed Project Report prepared nearly five years ago but yet to be implemented.

The government is expected to continue evaluating feasible options before finalising a location for the international flower market.

AVOIDING TRAFFIC CONGESTION

Complete Hebbal Loop in 15 Days: Chief Commissioner

BENGALURU

Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) officials to complete construction of the new loop at the Hebbal flyover within 15 days and open it to traffic, stressing the need to ease heavy congestion at one of the city's busiest junctions.

Rao issued the instructions during an inspection of several locations under the Bengaluru North City Corporation limits. He noted that the flyover bringing vehicles into the city from the KR Puram side has already been completed and opened. With this in place, the connecting loop between the new and existing flyovers must now be finished without delay, he said.

The first girder for the new Hebbal loop has been installed, and concrete work is underway. Rao instructed officials to install the remaining two girders and finish the pending work at the earliest.

BDA officials informed him that discussions are in progress with various departments regarding a proposed 1.4 km flyover from Esteem Mall on Ballari Road to Manyata Tech Park. Steps will be taken to implement the project soon, they added.

During the inspection, Rao pointed out that the footpath alongside Hebbal Lake had been damaged in several stretches. He directed officials to repair the walkway, clear roadside garbage, and remove an obstructing pole to maintain cleanliness and improve pedestrian safety.

A section of the Hebbal flyover has already undergone milling and asphalting. Rao instructed the engineering teams to mill the remaining sections and complete the asphalting work immediately to ensure smooth movement of vehicles.

In Hebbal, RMV 2nd Stage and Basaveshwara Layout, Rao inspected road conditions and asked officials to expedite asphalting on arterial and sub-arterial stretches. He also reviewed an under-construction building adjacent to MCC land in RMV 2nd Phase and instructed officials to verify potential encroachment. If any violation is detected, strict action must be taken as per regulations, he said.

North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar, Joint Commissioner Mohammed Nayeem Momin, BDA engineers, and officials from the Metro, Water Board, and Traffic Police were present during the inspection.

QUICK READ

Student Murdered in Friend's Room; Accused Nabbed

BENGALURU

Madanayakanahalli Police arrested Premvardhan in Tirupati for the murder of student Devisree, who was killed after being taken to her friend's room. Both hailed from Andhra Pradesh and were in a relationship since their PUC days. While Devisree moved to Bengaluru for her BBM course, Premvardhan frequently visited the city. Police said he grew enraged after noticing her growing friendship with another youth and overheard her speaking to him on the phone. On Sunday, he confronted her, murdered her in a fit of anger, and fled. Police tracked and arrested him in Tirupati.

High Command Should End All Confusion, Says CM Siddaramaiah

BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday urged the party high command to put an end to the ongoing confusion within the state unit. Responding to reports of another group of MLAs heading to Delhi, he said legislators are free to meet the high command and present their views. He added that cabinet expansion would take place only after the party's direction and clarified that he has no plans to meet Rahul Gandhi for now. Siddaramaiah recently held discussions with Mallikarjun Kharge during the latter's stay in Bengaluru, along with other state leaders.

Gang Holds Liquor Party on Train, Passengers Complain

BENGALURU

Railway negligence has come under scrutiny again after four men held a liquor party aboard a Bengaluru–Goa train, creating a nuisance for passengers. The gang allegedly drank openly and harassed fellow travellers, prompting ticketed passengers to file complaints with railway authorities. When officials arrived to intervene, the drunk men reportedly picked a fight with them as well. Frustrated passengers then escalated the issue by contacting senior railway officials. The group was detained at Arasikere railway station, where a case has been registered and the men were taken into custody for further action.

2027 Census Trial Begins in JP Park Ward with New Mobile App

Trial run aims to refine processes and help enumerators work efficiently

BENGALURU

Ahead of the nationwide census planned for 2027, the Central Government has developed a dedicated mobile application to streamline and modernise house list preparation in 2026.

To test the efficiency, usability and on-ground performance of this new app, trial operations are being conducted at three locations in Karnataka, including JP Park Ward under the North City Corporation of the Greater Bengaluru Authority.

Enumerators have begun visiting households across designated enumeration blocks, gathering essential data and urging residents to cooperate fully to ensure smooth operations. A delegation from the Office of the Registrar General of India—Assistant Directors Jitendra Sharma and Akash Devra—visited JP Park Ward on Tuesday. They reviewed the trial process, observed how the mobile app was being used in the field and assessed the coordination between enumerators and the public.

Officials from the Karnataka State Census Directorate, supervisors, North City Corporation enumerators, the charge officer and census clerks were also present during the inspection. This trial aims to resolve all procedural hurdles ahead of the 2026 house listing exercise, ensuring a smooth and confusion-free nationwide census operation in 2027.

House List Mobile App Trial Operation – Key Details

- Total Enumerators: 83
- Supervisors: 16
- Charge Officer: 1
- Ward-Level Oversight: North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar
- Trial Start Date: November 10
- Scheduled Completion: November 30
- Objective: Evaluate app performance, detect operational gaps, refine census pre-preparation.

Burial Only in Designated Cemeteries, Says HC

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday orally observed that burying bodies anywhere other than officially designated cemeteries is prohibited and cannot be permitted under any circumstance. A division bench headed by Justice Suraj Govindaraju made the remarks while hearing a petition filed by H. Gopalagowda of Turandahalli, Bangarpet, seeking the relocation of a grave that had been created on his private property without consent.

The court noted that allowing burials outside authorised burial grounds would create dangerous precedents, enabling misuse even in criminal cases. "If such acts are permitted, one may bury a body on another person's land, leading to serious consequences. Cremation or burial must take place only in designated cemeteries," the bench orally stated, before adjourning the hearing.

According to the petitioner, his daughter-in-law died by suicide following marital disputes. On August 24, 2024, the woman's siblings and relatives allegedly forcefully entered his premises, supported by members of women's organisations, and buried her body within the compound without informing or obtaining permission from him. They later constructed a tomb illegally on the property.

The petitioner stated that despite filing an application seeking removal of the grave, the Sub-Divisional Officer rejected it. He argued that this decision violates Section 95 of the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act, which prohibits burial, cremation or disposal of dead bodies within 100 metres of a residence or water source unless in a licensed cemetery. He submitted that the officer's order directly contradicts statutory provisions and sought a court direction to relocate the body.

The bench also stressed that the government must act to clear all encroachments on burial grounds to ensure their proper and exclusive use.

Burial of bodies outside authorised locations is an extremely sensitive matter with far-reaching implications. The court indicated that if unregulated burials are tolerated, it may trigger serious law-and-order issues and complicate future criminal investigations, making strict enforcement essential.

Karnataka Launches Healthy Ageing & Digital Empowerment Initiatives

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) has announced two major initiatives aimed at promoting healthy ageing and enhancing digital empowerment in rural areas. Minister for RDPR, IT and BT, Priyank Kharge said the government has entered into a non-financial agreement with Dementia India Alliance (DIA) to introduce dementia awareness and healthy ageing programmes across Gram Panchayat Arivu Kendras, which function as community knowledge centres.

Under this partnership, DIA will support selected Arivu Kendras in conducting activities that promote physical, cognitive and social engagement among senior citizens. It will also train library supervisors and community volunteers to run these programmes effectively. The initiative includes community-level memory screening camps and awareness drives in collaboration with Primary Health Centres, medical colleges and Panchayat Raj Institutions, along with linking participants to mental health services whenever necessary.

Model centres will first be launched in selected taluks and later expanded to all districts in phases over the next three years. A Joint Steering Committee led by the Commissioner of the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Directorate will guide implementation and ensure that dementia-responsive activities are integrated into Gram Panchayat development plans.

Separately, the government has renewed its non-financial agreement with the Education Foundation to strengthen the Gram Digi Vikasana (GDV) programme. The renewed pact expands support to all active and newly established Arivu Kendras, providing upgraded digital infrastructure and access to the 'Shikshanpedia' web app for community digital learning.

The Education Foundation will train library supervisors, Panchayat Development Officers and master bookkeepers on programme implementation, while also offering digital literacy training to community members and self-help groups. The initiative places special emphasis on improving digital skills among rural youth, including soft skills, employability and basic AI awareness. Model Inclusive Digital Centres will be set up statewide over three years to serve as technology hubs for students and local communities.

Passenger Woes Continue as KR Puram Railway Station Upgrade Drags On

BENGALURU

Eighteen months after KR Puram railway station was brought under the Amrit Bharat redevelopment scheme, passengers say little has changed on the ground. Handling nearly 10,000 passengers a day, the station remains one of the city's most congested transit points — a situation highlighted last Friday when crowds surged onto Platform 2 to board the Madurai-bound Vande Bharat Express. Despite not being a terminal station, KR Puram draws heavy footfall due to its proximity to major IT hubs along the Outer Ring Road and Whitefield.

Under the Amrit Bharat scheme, 55 stations across Karnataka were selected for upgrades, with improvements promised in station access, circulating areas, waiting halls, toilets, lifts, escalators, cleanliness, and free Wi-Fi. However, while redevelopment at Whitefield, Cantonment, and KSR Bengaluru has moved at a brisker pace — including the recent removal of Cantonment's historic 160-year-old stone arch — work at KR Puram continues to lag. Commuters say the lack of essential facilities such as lifts and sufficiently wide foot-over bridges (FOBs) makes navigation difficult, particularly for elderly passengers and those carrying luggage. Many long-distance travellers arriving in Bengaluru through KR Puram find the station ill-equipped for the high passenger load it receives. According to South Western Railway (SWR) officials, a major part of the project involves creating a third entry point with expanded holding areas and upgraded amenities.

Young Doctors Must Uphold Ethics and Serve Society: Dr Sharanaprakash Patil

BENGALURU

Young doctors completing their postgraduate studies must commit themselves to ethical practice and socially responsible service, said Dr Sharanaprakash R. Patil, Minister for Medical Education, Skill Development, Livelihood, and Raichur District In-charge.

He was speaking as the chief guest at Sankalpa, the postgraduate convocation ceremony held on Tuesday at the Bengaluru Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) auditorium.

Dr Patil reminded the graduating doctors that earning a postgraduate degree is only the beginning of their professional journey. "Your learning does not end here. Medicine is a constantly evolving field, and you must upgrade your knowledge and skills throughout your career," he said, urging them to contribute meaningfully to strengthening public health systems.

Highlighting rapid advancements in global healthcare, the Minister stressed the importance of staying informed about medical progress worldwide. "Improve your understanding not just of developments in India but also of breakthroughs happening across the globe. This will help you reach the highest levels of professional excellence," he added.

Calling BMCRI one of India's most prestigious government medical institutions, Dr Patil pointed out that students had benefited from high-quality education at an affordable cost. At a time when medical training is increasingly expensive, government institutions continue to provide excellent facilities with minimal financial burden, he noted.

Urging the young specialists to give back to society, Dr Patil said ethical conduct, compassion, and public service must remain at the heart of their medical careers.

Commissioner Visits PM SHRI KV MEG & Centre

BENGALURU

Prachi Pandey, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Commissioner of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), visited PM SHRI KV MEG & Centre on Tuesday. She inaugurated the newly established STEM Lab, developed in collaboration with Sard under the Vidyanjali initiative. Equipped with 3-D and VR learning tools, the advanced lab aims to promote inquiry, creativity and experiential learning, helping students understand complex scientific concepts through immersive simulations and hands-on activities.

Pandey also visited the Toy Library and ATAL Lab, interacting with students and learning about the impact of these facilities on their learning experience.

A ceremonial welcome was organised by Principal Lokesh Bihari Sharma, with NCC cadets presenting a guard of honour and a traditional purnakumbha reception.

She was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Shaik Tajuddin and Assistant Commissioners R. Pramid, R.M. Sokalla and K. Hema, along with other senior officials.

New Book 'Kodava Religion at Crossroads' Released

BENGALURU

Author PT Bopanna's latest book, Kodava Religion at Crossroads, was released in the city on November 25. Marking his eleventh publication, the book serves as a sequel to his earlier work Are Kodavas (Coorgs) Hindus? and explores what Bopanna describes as the growing influence of Hindutva ideology in Kodagu. He examines how these shifts may be affecting the Kodava community's traditional practices rooted in ancestor worship and nature reverence. Bopanna urges Kodavas to safeguard 'Kodavame', the indigenous cultural identity cherished for generations. The book features a chapter titled "Sanskritization and the Kodavas" by Dr CC Sowmya Dechamma, Fulbright scholar and Professor at the University of Hyderabad. Advocate Anu Chengappa contributes an analysis of customary rights of Kodava women in matters of marriage and property. The foreword is authored by Dr Veena Poonacha, former Director of the Research Centre.

POWER TUSSLE

DKS–Kharge Car Meeting Fuels Power Tussle Talk

BENGALURU

The ongoing power tussle within the Karnataka Congress shifted to the national capital on Tuesday, after AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar held a long, private discussion while travelling together to the Bengaluru airport. Kharge, who had been in the city for the past few days meeting Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and other senior leaders, left for Delhi to brief Rahul Gandhi on the latest political churn, according to sources.Shivakumar's unexpected meeting with Kharge — after weeks of not interacting directly — triggered political curiosity. The Congress chief travelled in Shivakumar's car from his Sadashivanagar residence to the airport, where the two discussed the leadership transition and the long-pending question of power-sharing, party insiders said. Shivakumar reportedly urged the high command to take a clear decision to end the confusion.

Kharge, however, downplayed the significance of the meeting, stating that he was travelling to Delhi only to participate in Constitution Day programmes and refrained from commenting on internal party matters.

Sources said Shivakumar is preparing to leave for Delhi on Wednesday or Thursday, with strong indications that he intends to pursue his claim to the chief minister's post more assertively. Political circles are abuzz with speculation that Shivakumar may rally close MLAs, hold a show-of-strength, and build pressure on the central leadership through AICC general secretaries K.C. Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala.

The Shivakumar camp continues to insist that the high command must resolve the leadership question immediately, arguing that prolonged uncertainty is harming governance and party cohesion in Karnataka.

QUICK READ

Two young men found dead in pond

Davanagere

The bodies of two young men, Chetan (22) and Manu (23) from Shantinagar, were found under suspicious circumstances in Kunduwada Lake. Both had been missing for the past two days. On November 25, their families discovered the bodies while searching for them. Authorities suspect that the youths might have gone to the lake for fishing, though the exact circumstances remain unclear. Police from Vidyanagar station visited the site and are conducting a thorough investigation to determine the cause of death. The incident has raised concerns among locals, and officials are urging anyone with information to come forward.

Lawyer KM Krishna Bhat releases 'Indra Dhanus' collection

Mangaluru

Lawyer K.M. Krishna Bhat released his latest literary work, 'Indra Dhanus', a collection of lilit prose essays, at the city's Patrikabhavana on Tuesday. Speaking at the event, noted writer Dr. Vasanthkumar Pearl praised Krishna Bhat's 65-year literary journey, highlighting that although lilit essays are concise in form, they carry profound themes and are written in an elegant, therapeutic style. This is Krishna Bhat's sixth book, and it features engaging, thoughtful writings reflecting his literary insight. Senior lawyer M.V. Shankar Bhat, who presided over the event, lauded Krishna Bhat for conveying deep experiences in a light and approachable style.

Voters' list for Graduate Constituency published

Chitradurga

The draft voters' list for the Karnataka South-East Graduate Constituency has been released for public scrutiny, District Commissioner T. Venkatesh announced. As per the 1960 Voter Registration Rules, the draft list has been displayed at the DC office, sub-division offices and all taluk tahsildar offices from November 25, where it can be reviewed during office hours. November 1, 2025, has been fixed as the eligibility date for voter inclusion. Eligible graduates whose names are missing, or those who wish to file claims or objections, may submit applications in the prescribed format to the designated voter registration officers by December 10.

Youth is the key force in nation building: Guv Gehlot

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot emphasized youth as India's driving force, urging graduates to innovate, lead, and serve the nation

BELAGAVI

Thaawarchand Gehlot, Governor of Karnataka, highlighted the vital role of youth in shaping India's future while presiding over the 14th Convocation of Rani Channamma University. Speaking on the occasion, he remarked that India is rapidly advancing in sectors such as artificial intelligence, data science, renewable energy, climate science, biotechnology, space research, and digitalization, reflecting its growing global influence in science, technology, and innovation.

The Governor emphasized that mere accumulation of knowledge is not enough for meaningful progress. "Intelligence, human sensitivity, problem-solving ability, and an innovative mindset are essential. India's ancient knowledge traditions also stress applying knowledge for the betterment of individuals, society, and humanity," he said.

Highlighting Karnataka's role in driving development, he noted, "From Bengaluru to Belagavi, a wave of innovation and knowledge is transforming the nation. Universities and students are at the heart of this change." Congratulating graduates, he urged them to pursue excellence, show gratitude to parents and teachers, and contribute actively to India's growth.

Calling youth the nation's greatest asset, the Governor said, "With the world's largest youth population, India's young minds are leading initiatives like Startup India, Digital India, Make in India, Green Energy Mission, and space research. Do not limit yourselves to seeking jobs; create jobs, innovate, and convert challenges into opportunities with integrity, transparency, and patriotism."

He drew inspiration from Rani Chennamma of Kittur, praising her courage and determination, and encouraged students to follow her example of service and wisdom.

Shri Shivaji Kaganikar, Shri Vinod Dodannanavar, and Shri Basavaraja Yaligar were awarded honorary degrees during the convocation. Present at the event were Padma Shri A.S. Kiran Kumar, Vice Chancellor Prof. C.M. Thyagaraja, and other dignitaries. The Governor also lauded Rani Channamma University for its contributions to knowledge, research, and social responsibility.

Vijayendra criticizes Cong govt for ignoring farmers' plight

DAVANAGERE

B.Y. Vijayendra criticized the Congress government for ignoring farmers' distress, demanding maize procurement centers, compensation, and statewide BJP-led protests.

BJP State President and MLA B.Y. Vijayendra has strongly criticized the Congress government in Karnataka for failing to address the issues faced by farmers. Speaking to the media during a protest, he stated that ignoring farmers in distress amounts to serious wrongdoing.

The protest was organized by the BJP Farmers' Front, with participation from state president Nadahalli, senior leader C.T. Ravi, and district leaders including Renukacharya and Modal Virupakshappa. Vijayendra alleged that the Congress government has been unresponsive to farmer grievances, particularly concerning sugarcane and maize cultivators, whose problems remain unresolved.

He highlighted ongoing protests by maize and jowar farmers in Lakshmeshwar and Navalgund, including a fast-unto-death satyagraha led by farmer leader Shankranna Ambali. He further criticized the state government for failing to open procurement centers despite the central government declaring support prices.

Vijayendra demanded that the Chief Minister immediately inaugurate maize procurement centers. He also called for the installation of 32 crest gates at the Tungabhadra dam, warning that without them, farmers in Koppal, Ballari, Vijayanagara, and Raichur are unable to sow their second crop. Additionally, he insisted that farmers should be compensated Rs. 25,000 per acre for crop losses.

He accused the entire state cabinet of remaining inactive in Delhi while farmers face urgent issues. Vijayendra announced a statewide agitation across all 224 Assembly constituencies on November 27 and 28, with subsequent protests planned in all district headquarters on December 1 and 2, organized by the BJP Farmers' Front. He stressed that resolving farmers' issues must be the government's immediate priority, regardless of political considerations.

Women's Commission chairperson highlights administrative gaps

SHIVAMOGGA

Dr. Nagalakshmi Chaudhari, Chairperson of the State Women's Commission, conducted a strict review of administrative lapses in several institutions, including Meggan District Hospital, Women's Police Station, Women's Sports Hostel, Morarji Desai Residential School in Gajanur, and B.C.M. Engineering Women's Hostel. Addressing senior officials from the concerned departments, she criticized ongoing mismanagement and called for immediate corrective measures.

Speaking at the Women's Response and Progress Review Meeting organized jointly by the State Women's Commission, District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Police Department, and Women & Child Development Department, Dr. Chaudhari emphasized that public service facilities must provide a safe and supportive environment, particularly at women's police stations where families with children visit. She insisted that all staff complete mandatory gender sensitization courses and maintain proper certification.

She instructed the immediate establishment of committees to address sexual harassment complaints and recommended increasing counters for pregnant and vulnerable women at Meggan Hospital. She condemned delays in salary disbursement and non-payment of ESI and PF for 'D' category staff, directing officials to submit reports from all taluk hospitals and primary health centers for prompt resolution.

Dr. Chaudhari also highlighted poor conditions in women's hostels, citing inadequate lighting, lack of CCTV surveillance, unsanitary facilities, and insufficient nutritious meals. She called for urgent improvements and recommended implementing the "Koodi Baalon" initiative in Shivamogga to empower women and ensure safety.

During the session, officials including DC Gurudatta Hegde, ZP CEO Hemant, District Legal Services Authority Secretary Santosh M.S., and Police DSO G.K. Mithun Kumar were present. Dr. Chaudhari also urged the police to make Shivamogga drug-free, citing the rise in substance abuse and illegal liquor sales in rural areas and its adverse impact on youth.

Key Issues Flagged by Chairperson

- Serious administrative lapses in hospitals, women's police stations, and hostels, demanding immediate corrective measures.
- Poor safety and living conditions in women's hostels, including lack of CCTV, weak lighting, and unhygienic facilities.
- Rising drug abuse and illegal liquor activity in Shivamogga, stressing the need for strict enforcement to protect youth.

'Why shouldn't I become CM under the Lingayat quota'

KOPPAL

Basavaraj Rayareddy, economic advisor to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, questioned the ongoing discussions around the Lingayat quota and the demand for a Dalit Chief Minister, asserting that there is no reason why he should not be considered for the post.

Speaking to reporters in Yelaburga, Koppal, he said that Home Minister G. Parameshwar and Minister Satish Jarkiholi have publicly suggested that he could be the CM. Responding boldly, Rayareddy said, "If they say so, why shouldn't I also become the CM? But currently, the position is not vacant."

He emphasized that while Congress has many capable MLAs, the Chief Minister's seat is occupied, and allocating it for a short duration of two and a half years is impractical. He reminded that CM Siddaramaiah has committed to serving a full five-year term and has already started preparations for the upcoming budget.

Farmers protest demanding ₹3K support price for maize

HAVERI

Farmers in Haveri have intensified their indefinite protest demanding that the government fix the support price of maize at ₹3,000 per quintal. The agitation, which began in front of the District Commissioner's office, entered its second day on Tuesday.

Protesters stated that the current market rate was far below their production cost, leaving farmers in severe distress. They urged the government to immediately announce a revised support price and open procurement centres without delay. Farmers argued that both the Union and State governments had failed to address their long-pending grievances despite repeated appeals.

Several protestors expressed anger, stating that no leaders or officials had come forward to listen to their concerns. "Neither the Central nor the State government seems alive to our problems. We will not withdraw until justice is done," the farmers declared. Warning of intensifying their agitation, they said that if their demands continue to be ignored.

Sports promote mental health: DC Hegde

SHIVAMOGGA

District Collector Dr. Gurudatta Hegde emphasized that sports play a vital role in enhancing both mental and physical health. He made these remarks during the inauguration of the three-day annual police sports meet, held at the D.A.R. Kavaiyathu ground, by releasing balloons to officially kick off the event.

The annual sports meet, organized systematically by the police department, has become a benchmark for others to follow. Collector Hegde appreciated that even the district revenue officials participate in the event, highlighting the spirit of collaboration and encouragement it fosters across departments.

Speaking at the event, he noted that sports not only inspire and motivate individuals but also help maintain physical fitness and overall vitality. Regular participation in sports instills enthusiasm, resilience, and a positive mindset, which are essential in facing daily challenges.

Ankola protests against private commercial port

KARWAR

In Uttara Kannada's Ankola, the proposed construction of a private commercial port by J.S.W. The company has sparked widespread protests. The anti-port agitation committee has called for an Ankola bandh to oppose the project.

On Tuesday, shopkeepers across Ankola closed their businesses in support of the bandh, and various local organizations joined the protest, bringing the town to a complete standstill. Members of the anti-port committee conducted processions in different parts of the city, symbolically carrying an effigy representing the J.S.W. Company's project. Demonstrators gathered near Jai Hind Circle, expressing their anger and frustration against both the government and the private company backing the port initiative.

Fishermen participating in the protest emphasized that no commercial port should be constructed in the area under any circumstances. They argued that the project directly threatens their livelihoods, as several plots of land have already been cleared for port development.

Protest demands action on construction workers' issues

KOPPAL

Members of the Joint Committee of Indian Labour Organisations staged a protest in front of the District Administration Office, urging the government to withdraw the four new labour codes and fulfil long-pending demands of construction workers. The protesters insisted that the Union government must roll back the labour codes, and the State government should strongly advocate this position at the Centre.

Due to the absence of the Deputy Commissioner, the delegation submitted a memorandum through Tahsildar Ravikumar Vastra, addressed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Labour Minister Santosh Lad.

In the memorandum, the organisations highlighted several grievances. They pointed out that many eligible construction workers have not been receiving retirement pensions. Workers injured in accidents and referred to the K.S. Hospital—recognised by the Construction Workers' Welfare Board.

NIJALINGAPPA'S HOUSE RENOVATION

DC reviews renovation of fmr CM Nijalingappa's residence

CHITRADURGA

District Collector T. Venkatesh inspected the ongoing renovation work at the historic residence of former Chief Minister S. Nijalingappa, known as the 'Vinaya' building, in Chitradurga city. The restoration, estimated at Rs. 1.20 crore, is being carried out with a traditional touch, ensuring that the original architectural style remains intact.

The government has already acquired the property, and the renovation aims to preserve its heritage while making it accessible for public viewing. Family members of S. Nijalingappa have extended their full cooperation for the project. The renovation plan has been prepared in consultation with the State Archaeology Department and the Construction Centre, with technical guidance to maintain authenticity. The work includes replastering, flooring, and electrical upgrades, adhering to traditional construction methods.

Collector Venkatesh stated that the building was originally constructed using a mixture of lime, jaggery, and aloe vera, combined with clay. Replicating these materials requires meticulous planning and more time, which is why the renovation is expected to take 5 to 6 months. A committee, including Nijalingappa's descendants, is overseeing the project to ensure fidelity to the original design.

Recently, Shivraj Tangadagi, Minister for Kannada and Culture, visited the site, providing guidance on the restoration and promising additional funding if necessary. So far, Rs. 84 lakh has been released, and a formal request for supplementary funds will be submitted following review of the progress report.

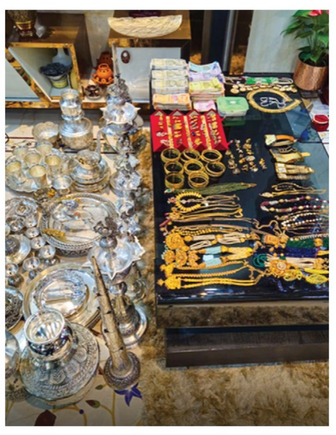
Officials present during the inspection included Harish Kumar, Project Director of the Construction Centre, and Assistant Engineer Ravi, among others. Collector Venkatesh emphasized that the project must retain the building's traditional appearance while completing the renovation to the highest standards.

Karnataka Lokayukta raids 10 locations across 8 districts

Lokayukta officials carried out widespread raids targeting government officers accused of amassing disproportionate assets across Karnataka districts

BENGALURU

Karnataka Lokayukta officials carried out raids on Tuesday at 10 locations across eight districts, targeting government officers accused of accumulating disproportionate assets beyond their known sources of income. The operations were conducted in Mandya, Bidar, Mysuru, Dharwad, Haveri, Bengaluru, Shivamogga, and Davanagere.



The officials under scrutiny include D.M. Girish, Assistant Executive Engineer, PWD; C. Puttaswamy, Chief Accounts Officer, Mandya Town Planning; Prem Singh, Chief Engineer, Upper Krishna Project, Bidar; C. Ramaswamy, Revenue Inspector, Hootagalli Municipality, Mysuru; and Subhash Chandra, Assistant Professor, Karnataka University, Dharwad. Raids were also carried out at properties of Huilgol Sathish, Senior Veterinary Examiner; Shekappa, Executive Engineer, Project Director Haveri; P. Kumaraswamy, Office Superintendent, Bengaluru RTO Electronics City; and C.N. Lakshmipathi, First Division Assistant, SIMS Medical College, Shivamogga.

Earlier, on November 7, the Lokayukta had conducted surprise raids at six Bengaluru RTOs following public complaints, uncovering large-scale irregularities in Yeshwanthpur, Rajajinagar, Jayanagar, Yelahanka, Kasturinagar, and K.R. Puram.

Previously, searches targeting 12 officials and their relatives across 48 locations led to the seizure of Rs 381 crore in assets, including land, houses, cash, jewelry, vehicles, and other movable and immovable properties.

The Karnataka government's continued crackdown reflects its determination to combat corruption and ensure that public servants operate with integrity, preventing citizens from being exploited due to the greed of officials. These raids signal the administration's firm stance on accountability and transparency in governance.

Disability does not hinder achievement: Justice Vijay

CHITRADURGA

Senior Civil Judge and Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority, Justice M. Vijay, emphasized that disabilities do not prevent individuals from achieving success, provided they possess self-confidence and determination. He made these remarks during the inauguration of a special sports and cultural event for persons with disabilities, organized at the Onake Obavva District Stadium in Chitradurga to mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025.

Senior Civil Judge M. Vijay inaugurated Chitradurga's disability sports and cultural event, emphasizing that determination and self-confidence overcome all physical challenges

The event was jointly hosted by the District Legal Services Authority, District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Women and Child Development Department, Youth Empowerment and Sports Department, and various NGOs working in the disability sector. After inaugurating the event, Justice Vijay flagged off sports competitions, inspiring participants to showcase their talents.

Speaking at the event, he highlighted government initiatives designed to integrate persons with disabilities into the mainstream and promote their welfare. He also noted that the courts have special provisions to handle disability-related cases promptly, and the District Legal Services Authority provides free legal advice and support from Taluk to Supreme Court levels. In Chitradurga district, a dedicated team of 15 officials assists individuals in accessing these services.

Other dignitaries, including K.H. Vijay Kumar, Deputy Director of Women and Child Development, and Y. Ravikumar, Executive Officer of Chitradurga Taluk Panchayat, encouraged participants to make full use of such opportunities. They noted that district-level sports and cultural competitions are already being organized for visually impaired students, with awards and certificates to be distributed to selected participants. J. Vaishali, District Officer for Disability Welfare, added that these annual programs aim to provide health check-up camps, raise awareness of government schemes, and highlight that persons with disabilities are excelling in all fields. Several department officials, teachers, and NGO representatives also attended the event, reinforcing the importance of inclusion, empowerment, and recognition for persons with disabilities.

₹29-crore plan approved to improve Ghati Subramanya Temple facilities

DEVANAHALLI

Transport and Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy announced that a new Dasoha Bhavan will be built at Sri Ghati Subramanya Temple at a cost of ₹16 crore. The facility will allow 2,000 devotees to dine at the same time, ensuring better comfort during peak seasons. Addressing a press meet at the temple auditorium in Doddaballapur taluk, he said that over 25 lakh devotees visit the shrine every year, making upgraded amenities essential. The façade of the upcoming dining hall will be designed in traditional Hoysala architecture.

To improve convenience during festivals, a dedicated Ratha Beedi (chariot street) will be constructed. Additional works include concrete roads around the temple, upgraded sanitation, and a new guest house costing ₹1.5 crore. Plans are also underway to distribute laddus made with pure ghee as prasadam. In total, developmental works worth ₹29 crore received administrative approval during the meeting. The Brahmarathotsava of Sri Ghati Subramanya will be held on December 25, featuring elaborate floral arrangements and lighting. Arrangements for drinking water, queue systems and temporary toilets will be made for devotees.

This year's Ghati Jatra will be toll-free, with no fees for livestock or vehicles. Senior citizens, specially-abled individuals, pregnant women and new mothers will be allowed direct darshan. From December 10 to 18, the annual cattle fair will be held, with special lighting, drinking water facilities, veterinary support to prevent disease outbreaks among animals, and free food for farmers attending the event.

Judge Vijay calls for respect and safety for working women

CHITRADURGA

Senior Civil Judge and District Legal Services Authority Member-Secretary M. Vijay emphasized that men must treat women at their workplaces with the same respect and protection they offer to the women in their families. He said workplaces should nurture a culture where women are seen as colleagues deserving dignity, safety, and support. He was speaking at a one-day workshop on the Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013, held at the District Bal Bhavan. The event was jointly organized by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, District Legal Services Authority, Women & Child Development Department, the District Women Empowerment Unit, and the Child Protection Unit, marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Judge Vijay noted that women's participation in the workforce has increased from 18% to 41%, placing greater responsibility on employers to ensure safe working conditions. With technological advances, he warned of rising digital harassment, exploitation, and abuse targeting women and young girls, stressing the need for digital safety awareness.

Stop seeking votes by misusing Ambedkar's name: Fmr MP

DEVANAHALLI

Former MP Muniswamy condemned those who display copies of the Constitution and seek votes in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's name only during elections, calling for strong public rejection of such opportunistic politics. He was addressing a press conference at the Devanahalli BJP office regarding the upcoming Constitution Day to be observed on November 26.

Muniswamy, who oversees the Bengaluru Rural District SC Morcha, said the BJP has consistently protested against the Congress government for what he described as its disrespectful treatment of Dr. Ambedkar. He stated that on November 26, a grand Constitution Day programme will be held in Chikkaballapur, where awareness will be created about the alleged insults Congress has inflicted upon Ambedkar, along with events to commemorate his legacy.

He criticised the Congress government for diverting funds meant for children, women, and the economically weak to implement its guarantee schemes. According to him, the electoral results clearly show that people reject the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, and the decline of Congress is evident. He added that voters understand who the "real vote thieves" are.

District BJP president Ramakrishnappa said that resisting the Congress during the Emergency was the nation's true moment of freedom, and those who denied Ambedkar an honourable burial during their regime cannot expect public support.

SC Morcha district president Narayanaswamy noted that it has been 76 years since the Constitution was adopted in 1949 and accused Congress of making several amendments that create unnecessary fear among the public. He highlighted that the BJP-led central government has developed all five key pilgrimage sites associated with Dr. Ambedkar, including his birthplace, places of education, Dikshabhoomi, and Mahaparinirvana site.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I POOJA SUNILKUMAR RAJPOROHIT D/O SUNILKUMAR RAJPUROHIT, W/O SANDEEP RAJPUROHIT, R/O C-503, Vinayak Residency, B/H Priyanka Intercity, Magob, Bombay Market, Surat City, Surat, Gujarat - 395010, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as POOJA RAJPUROHIT.

CHANGE OF NAME

I RAVI SANKAR R S/O S RAMAKRISHNAN, R/O 238, 4th Main, H Block, Ramakrishna Nagar, Mysore, Karnataka- 570022, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as R RAVISHANKAR.

NAME CHANGE

I, **NAZIA BEGUM**, Resident of No 4/ 18, 9th A Main Road, Gurrappana Palya, BTM Layout 1st Stage, Bangalore-560029, hereby confirm that, the word **NAZIA** stands for my **GIVEN NAME** and the word BEGUM stands for my Surname, vide affidavit dated 24/11/2025 before Notary G.DAYANANDA, BENGALURU

NAME CHANGE

I, **ABDUL SHUKOOR ALIAS PASHA** , Resident of No 854,4th Cross Near Nimra Masjid Rajivnagar Mysuru Dist,570019, have changed my name to **ABDUL SHUKUR PASHA** vide affidavit dated: 25.11.2025 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ALI MOHAMED YAHIYA**, resident of No. 3070/1, Good Shapherd Convent Road, Lashkar Mohalla, Mysore - 570001, Have changed my name to **MOHAMMAD YAHIYA**, vide affidavit dated: 25.11.2025, before Notary G. DAYANANDA, Bangalore.

NAME CHANGE

I, **PARVIN TAJ** , W/o. Saleem Khan, Resident of No, 125,3rd Cross 2nd Stage Kesare Mysuru Dist, 570007, have changed my name to **PARVEEN TAJ** , vide affidavit dated: 25.11.2025 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

MYSORE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka)
Irwin Road, Mysore-570001, Phone No. :+91-0821-2520512 (Off.), 2520803 (Fax)
Website: www.mmcri.karnataka.gov.in/, E-mail: mmcrimysore@yahoo.com

No. Equipment/15/2025-26/Call-2 Date: 21.11.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub: Invitation of Short Term Tender for the supply of IVF, Equipments to the Cheluvamba Hospital, MMC & RI, Mysuru.

The Short Term Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999 for the supply of IVF equipments to the Cheluvamba Hospital, MMC & RI, Mysuru. The Tender documents may be downloaded from E-procurement website:**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **24.11.2025** and last date for submission of Tenders through E-procurement website is **08.12.2025 upto 5.00 PM.** Those tenders which are not submitted with E.M.D. will be rejected.

If, the last date for submission of Tender treated as holiday, the next working day will be considered as last date. No Notification in this regard will be announced.

Sd/- Director and Dean
Mysore Medical College & Research Institute, Mysore

DIPR/MYSORE/SHIRDISAI/1279/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ಒಳಚರಂಡಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಕನನೀಸ ಮತ್ತು ಒಚ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ : ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ 08232–224816. e mail- kwbeemnd@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:–ಕಜಮ/ಕಾಅ/ಮಂಡ್ಯ/ತಾಂ.ಶಾ/ತಾಂ.ಸ/ಸ.ಅ/1320/2025–26
ದಿನಾಂಕ:24.11.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಪಾಂಡವಪುರ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ವಿವಿಧ ವಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳಚರಂಡಿ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ. : **01**. ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ : KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT444. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ : ರೂ.62,98,459/-.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ. : **02**. ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ : KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT445. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ : ರೂ.42,06,496/-

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ. : **03**. ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ : KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT446. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ : ರೂ.14,02,816/-

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಕನನೀಸ ಮತ್ತು ಒಚ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ.

ಪಾಪ್ರಸಂಇ/ಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಪಿ&ಎ/596/2025–26

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Chief Health Officer (PH),
Annex-3, Ground Floor, GBA Head Office,
Bengaluru - 560 002.

No: GBA/2025-26/PREQUAL_TENDER_NUMBER_1 Date: 25.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) for Selection of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for Conducting Cataract Surgeries at Five city Corporations under GBA

Following is the Events of Bid Process:

1	EoI Reference No: **GBA/2025-26/PREQUAL_TENDER_NUMBER_1**
2	Date of Commencement of Download of EOI from KPP Portal website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in **25-11-2025** onwards
3	Date, Time & Venue of Pre-bid Meeting: **27-11-2025** at **11:30**am at the following venue: Special Commissioner Health Chamber, 3rd Floor, Annex-3 Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002
4	Last Date and Time for uploading Online queries in KPP pportal: **27-11-2025** at **11:00** am.
5	Last Date and Time for uploading of eTenders in KPP Portal: **09-12-2025** at **5:00** pm.
6	Date and Time of Online opening of Technical Bids **10-12-2025** at **5:30** pm.
7	Date and Time of Demonstration: Shall be intimated (If required)
8	Date and Time of Financial Bid opening: As per KPP Portal
9	Address for Communication: Chief Health Officer (Public Health), Office of the CHO Ground Floor, Annex-2 Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002. e-mail:choph515@gmail.com Phone: 9845208571

Sd/- Chief Health Officer (PH)
Greater Bengaluru Authority

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LTD. MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED
FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD
CIN : U65923KL2010PLC039179
Regd Office: IV/470A (OLD) W/638A (NEW) Manappuram House Valapad Thrissur, Kerala 680567
Corp Office: Manappuram Home Finance Limited, Third Floor, Unit No. 301 to 315, A Wing, 'Kanakia Wall Street', Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai-400093, Maharashtra.
Phone No.: 022-66211000, **Website:** www.manappuramhomefin.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd., having our registered office at IV/470A (old) w/638A (new), Manappuram House, Valapad, Thrissur, Kerala-680567 and branches at various places in India (hereinafter referred to as "MAHOFIN") is a Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and a Financial Institution within the meaning of sub-clause (iv) of clause (m) of sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002 (hereinafter referred so as the Act) read with Notification No. S.O. 3466 (E) dated 18th December, 2015 issued by the Govt. of India, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi, inter alia carrying on business of advancing loans for construction and / or purchase of dwelling units and whereas the Borrower / Co-Borrowers as mentioned in Column No. 2 of the below mentioned chart obtained loan from MAHOFIN and whereas MAHOFIN being the secured creditor under the SARFAESI Act, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 2 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice calling upon the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers as mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reasons. That in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/LAN/Branch	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Interest has been created	NPA Date	Date of Notice sent & Outstanding Amount
1	Haleshappa N, narasimhappa P, Gangamma N, Malikarjun S **/C010COLONS00000 5008808**/SHIMOGA	All that the piece or parcel of the site along with structure standing there on being bearing site/Property No. 67/2, E-Property No. 152400501400220006, measuring East-West 4.8768 X North-South 27.432 meter, total 133.78 Sq. meter, situated at Madikechilur-IVillage, Hadonahalli Village Panchayath,Shivamogga District, P.O BULLAPURA, SHIMOGA, KARNATAKA, Pin: 577216. EAST-PROPERTY NO. 68, WEST- PROPERTY OF YASHODHAMMA W/O LATE, RANGAIAH, SOUTH-ROAD, NORTH-CONSERVANCY ROAD	20-10-2025	24-10-2025 & Rs.513757/-

Notice, is therefore given to the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers, as mentioned herein above, calling upon them to make payment of the total outstanding amount as shown herein above, against the respective Borrower / Co-Borrower, within 60 days of publication of this notice. Failure to make payment of the total outstanding amount together with further interest by the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower, MAHOFIN shall be constrained to take u/s 13(4) for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described above, steps are also being taken for service of notice in other manners as prescribed under the Act and the rules made hereunder. You are put to notice that the said mortgage can be redeemed upon payment of the entire amount due together with costs, charges and expenses incurred by MAHOFIN at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or private treaty for transfer by way of sale, as detailed in Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act.

Take note that in terms of S- 13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby restrained from transferring and/or dealing with the Secured Properties in any manner by way of sale, lease or in any other manner

Date: 26/11/2025 | Place: SHIMOGA **Sd/- Authorized Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd**

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A GOVT OF KARNATAKA ENTERPRISE)
Office of Executive Engineer, KNNL, Bhima Lift Irrigation Scheme, Division, Afzalpur- 585301, Email: eeblis@rediffmail.com

No:EE/ KNNL/BLIS/AFZ/TS-1/2025-26/733 Date: 19/11/2025

PERCENTAGE SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(only Through e-procurement)

On behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Bhima Lift Irrigation Scheme, Division, Afzalpur invites percentage Tenders for the below mentioned works from eligible contractors,

1) Name of work : **PROVIDING SPARE TRANSFORMERS TO BALUNDAGI & ALLAGI LIFT JACKWELL UNDER BLIS. (ID-2864/CALL-4),** 2) Approximate amount put to tender (Rs. Lakhs): **Rs. 114.29 Lakhs (as per e-portal)**, 3) EMD (Rs.) : From Rs. 2,00,000/- (as per e-portal), 4) Tender Processing Fee (Non refundable): As per E-procurement, 5) Eligible contractor: KSEI Super Grade or Above registration. (as per e-portal), 6) Stipulated period of Work.: 6 Months (as per e-portal)

The dates fixed for submission of tenders through e-procurement is from **24.11.2025 upto 02.12.2025 4.00 PM.** Technical Bid will be opened on **03.12.2025, at 4.15 PM.** and Financial Bid will be opened on **06.12.2025, at 11:00 AM** for further information, the undersigned may be contacted during office hours, and e-portal website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KNNL, Bhima LIS Division, Afzalpur-585301

DIPR/Kalaburagi/769/KSMC&A/2025-26

CHIKKAMAGALURU INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, CHIKKAMAGALURU
(Autonomous Medical Institution, Government of Karnataka)
Ph: 08262-295347 E-Mail: directorcims2020@gmail.com
Website: https://cimschikkamagaluru.karnataka.gov.in

No. CIMS/Supply/Hospital/M.M./e-Tender/01/2025-26 Dated: 20.11.2025

Public Notice

An article has been published in daily newspapers on 20.11.2025 regarding violation in purchase tender of life saving medicines used for treatment of patients at Aralaguppe Mallegowda Hospital, which is the teaching hospital of Chikkamagaluru Medical College and similar misconduct that has happened at a medical college in another district.

Regarding the said subject Administrative Control of Aralaguppe Mallegowda District Hospital coming under Health and Family Welfare Department was given to Chikkamagaluru Institute of Medical Sciences coming into effect from 01.04.2024. As per this the 290 bed capacity District Hospital was upgraded to 400 bed Teaching Hospital. For treatment of patients, approval was taken for purchase of high quality life saving medicines with a limit of up to Rs. 495.00 lakhs for 1 year in the 5th finance committee meeting held on 26.12.2024.

As per this, for purchase of life saving medicines, as already being purchased at other medical colleges, e-Tender was invited on 20.05.2025, as per KTPP Act and according to rules in e-procurement portal. 08 suppliers participated in the process and 07 suppliers have been eligible in the Technical Bid according to rules. Accordingly the model examination of life saving medicines was conducted on 04.08.2025 and since Riddi Pharma did not participate in this process they have been disqualified as per rules. On 14.08.2025 Financial Bid was opened and 06 suppliers (1. KEMPS Agency, 2. M/s. S.L.R. Agency, 3. M/s. Rajalakshmi Agencies, 4. M/s. Nuthan Pharma, 5. M/S. Sri Shiva Pharma & 6. Avishkarr Surgical India Pvt. Ltd.) have obtained eligibility. The documents of these 06 suppliers was put in a file and was presented to the purchase committee meeting at the Directorate of Medical Education. At the purchase committee, a high level committee including the bio medical engineer, examined the submitted file and as per the proceedings of the decisions discussed at the purchase committee meeting held on 10.09.2025 rate negotiation was held on 02.09.2025 and 1% lesser rate than the minimum rates quoted by the 06 suppliers was fixed and purchase order has been given to the suppliers as per rules for purchase of high quality life saving medicines on 16.09.2025.

The purchase has been made as per KTPP Act to ensure that there is no illegality, misconduct and disturbance in execution in the purchase. As published in the article in newspapers, there is no criterion in tender documents that bidders need to bid for all 419 life saving medicines and it is informed that there is no violation of any type in KTPP Act.

Sd/- Dean & Director, Chikkamagaluru Institute Medical Science Institution, Chikkamagaluru.

DIPR/ckm//ksmca/25-26/107/1287

QUICK READ

Leopard Near Airport Prompts Safety Measures

Pune

A leopard was seen near Pune International Airport on November 19, creating concern in the high-security area. Union Minister Murlidhar Mohol has asked officials to increase search and rescue efforts to ensure public safety. He also directed the use of advanced technology to track and capture the animal quickly. Forest department teams and Indian Air Force personnel are already searching in the airport surroundings. Authorities have urged people nearby to stay alert and avoid isolated areas until the animal is found.

Assam Tables Report On 1983 Poll Violence

Guwahati

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday placed the Mehta Commission report in the Assembly. The report looks into the violence during the 1983 state elections. The commission, led by Justice (retd) T.U. Mehta, was set up by an organisation and activists of the Assam Movement. The agitation, held from 1979 to 1985 against illegal migration, saw serious clashes. Over 2,100 people were killed in the tragic Nellie massacre. No discussion was held after the report was laid.

Man Arrested For Harassing Woman News Anchor

New Delhi

Delhi Police have arrested a 40-year-old man from Mumbai for allegedly harassing a woman news anchor online. Officials said the accused, Chet Kamal Prakash from Jammu, created several fake social media accounts using the anchor's photos. He then posted defamatory and threatening content to trouble her. The woman filed a complaint after noticing the fake profiles and harmful posts. Police tracked the accused to Mumbai and arrested him. An investigation into his activities is still ongoing.

Supreme Court Upholds Army Officer's Dismissal

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday strongly criticized the conduct of former Army officer Samuel Kamalesan, describing his refusal to enter a temple during regimental activities as the "grossest kind of indiscipline." The court dismissed his plea challenging termination from service, upholding the Army's decision.

A bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi refused to interfere with the Delhi High Court's ruling that had earlier supported the Army's action. The judges said Kamalesan's behavior was incompatible with military discipline and undermined the unity expected from officers.

"What kind of message has he been sending? He should have been thrown out for this only," remarked the Chief Justice. The bench stressed that leaders must set examples for their troops and cannot follow personal interpretations of religion while in uniform.

The Supreme Court dismissed a Christian Army officer's plea against dismissal, calling his refusal to enter a temple "gross indiscipline" and stressing the importance of unity in the armed forces

Kamalesan's lawyer, senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, argued that his client was dismissed for a single act of refusal, which he believed violated his Christian faith. He added that the officer had otherwise participated respectfully in multi-faith events.

The court, however, noted that the regiment also maintained a gurdwara for Sikh soldiers, emphasizing that such spaces are secular and meant to unify personnel. Justice Bagchi questioned whether Christian faith explicitly barred entry into temples, pointing out that even a local pastor had advised Kamalesan that entering a "sarva dharma sthal" would not violate his beliefs.

Commissioned in 2017 into the 3rd Cavalry Regiment, Kamalesan served as troop leader of the 'B' Squadron, comprising Sikh soldiers. The Army said he repeatedly refused to attend mandatory parades despite counseling, weakening unit cohesion.

Pressure on candidates raises concern in Maharashtra elections

PUNE

NCP (Sharad Pawar) national working president Supriya Sule has written to the Maharashtra State Election Commissioner, claiming that candidates in the upcoming local body elections are being pressured to withdraw. She alleged that "vested interests" are trying to secure unopposed victories by using threats and force. Sule expressed concern over what she called a rising and "worrying trend" of unopposed wins happening even before polling begins.

Her letter comes days after Maharashtra BJP chief Ravindra Chavan said that 100 ruling party councillors had already been elected unopposed in municipal councils and nagar panchayats. Opposition parties have alleged that the BJP is pushing dynastic politics to grassroots levels and using police pressure to favour relatives of influential leaders.

NCP (SP) claims candidates are facing threats to quit polls

Local body elections for 246 municipal councils and 42 nagar panchayats are scheduled for December 2. Civic corporation elections are likely in January 2026. Sule, daughter of NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar, said the Election Commission must ensure that democratic values are protected and the process remains fair and transparent.

She reminded the SEC that Maharashtra has always followed strong democratic principles built on inclusion and public participation. "Yashwantrao Chavan ensured democratic leadership emerged from every village," she wrote. Sule stated that the "greed for power" is now damaging that proud legacy by making polls unopposed.

The Baramati MP stressed that threats and intimidation of candidates go against the spirit of democracy. She urged authorities to guarantee a free and fearless atmosphere for campaigning and voting so that people's voices are heard.

"Unfortunately, this does not seem to be happening now," Sule warned. She said she has raised the issue to protect the state's democratic character and maintain public trust in the election system.

Supreme Court Seeks EC Stand On Tamil Nadu Roll Revision

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Election Commission of India (EC) to respond to a petition filed by MDMK founder and former Rajya Sabha member Vaiko. He has challenged the EC's decision to conduct a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Tamil Nadu. A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi listed the matter for hearing on December 2.

Vaiko argued that the revision process violates fundamental rights, including the right to equality. He also said it goes against provisions under the Representation of the People Act and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. According to him, the notification was brought without proper justification and may affect fair elections in the state.

Several other parties and leaders have also opposed the move. The DMK, CPI(M), TVK, and actor Vijay have already filed petitions challenging the same revision. They fear that sudden and large-scale changes in voter lists could lead to irregularities or voter exclusions.

Earlier on November 11, the Supreme Court had also asked the EC to reply to similar petitions from leaders in West Bengal, including those from DMK, CPI(M), Congress, and Trinamool Congress. The court additionally directed the Madras High Court and Calcutta High Court to pause any hearings

on related cases until the top court examines the issue.

Meanwhile, the AIADMK has supported the special revision in Tamil Nadu and filed an intervention plea. The Supreme Court has allowed it to be heard when the case takes place. The matter remains significant as both states are heading toward important elections in the coming years, making the accuracy of voter rolls crucial for ensuring transparency and trust in the democratic process.

Mamata Warns Matuas Of Delisting Under CAA Move

BONGAON

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday strongly criticised the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, claiming that Matua voters could lose their names from the voter list if they declare themselves foreigners under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA). Addressing an anti-SIR rally in Bongaon, a Matua-dominated region, she alleged that the exercise was a plan to deprive people of their rights.

Banerjee said the Election Commission was "no longer impartial" and accused it of working in favour of the BJP. She claimed the Commission had turned into a "BJP Commission", and warned that if she was forced into a confrontation, she would "shake the BJP's foundation" across India. The chief minister asserted that the saffron party had repeatedly failed to defeat her politically, despite trying "umpteen times".

Questioning the government's claims, Banerjee asked why the SIR was also being held in BJP-ruled states if the objective was to identify "illegal Bangladeshis". She alleged that the BJP was indirectly admitting the presence of "ghuspaithiyas" in states governed by its own party. Banerjee said the draft electoral roll would expose the "disastrous situation" created by the SIR process.

She also linked the Bihar election result to the revision exercise, saying the Opposition there could not understand what the BJP was doing. Banerjee added that if the revision process was carried out slowly over two to three years, the Trinamool Congress would provide full cooperation, but warned that a rushed exercise would not be accepted.

Madras HC Rejects Plea On Brand Hashtag Use

CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Tuesday declined to issue an interim injunction against costume designer Joy Crizildaa, who was accused of damaging the reputation of catering brand 'Madhampatty Pakashala' through her social media posts.

Justice N. Senthilkumar dismissed the plea filed by Madhampatty Thangavelu Hospitality Private Limited, which alleged that Crizildaa's posts had led to the cancellation of catering contracts worth several crores. The company claimed she was using the brand name to pursue a personal dispute, asserting a marital relationship with one of its directors, T. Rangaraj.

The petition sought to restrain Crizildaa from tagging or hashtagging the company's brand names and from posting any allegedly defamatory content, including photos, captions, videos or reels. It also asked the court to direct her to delete existing posts.

Appearing for Crizildaa, senior counsel S. Prabakaran opposed the injunction and filed a counter affidavit denying the allegations. The catering company, represented by senior counsel P.S. Raman and advocate Vijayan Subramaniam, argued that Madhampatty Thangavelu Hospitality, incorporated in 2010, had built its reputation through quality service, brand promotion, and investments. The brand, they said, had earned recognition across Tamil Nadu, serving celebrities, corporates, politicians, and government institutions.

The company alleged that Crizildaa's posts since July 2025 were defamatory and motivated by malice, claiming they could cause serious reputational and commercial harm. However, the court refused to grant interim relief, stating the matter would be decided during the full trial.

With the injunction plea dismissed, the civil suit will now proceed on its merits.

Congress Criticises Tree Cutting For Adani Coal Mining Project

NEW DELHI

The Congress party on Tuesday accused the Adani Group of cutting trees on a large scale in the Dhirauli area of Madhya Pradesh for a coal mining project. It called the reported tree felling an "environmental tragedy" and a "social and economic disaster" for local Adivasi communities who depend on forests for their livelihood. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh alleged that the project is moving forward by ignoring legal procedures.

Ramesh said heavy police forces have been deployed at the forest site. Villagers have been stopped from entering the area and outsiders denied access. He also claimed that Madhya Pradesh Adivasi Congress President Ramu Tekam was arrested for raising the issue. Congress stated that the government and company are using threats and force to continue the work.

In September, the Congress had earlier accused the Adani Group of violating the Forest Rights Act by cutting trees without proper approval. It claimed the central government pushed the project in 2019 and is now rushing construction in 2025. The party said the land falls under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution, which provides special protection to Adivasi regions.

The Madhya Pradesh government rejected the charges, saying all rules were followed. It said the Union Environment Ministry has already given final environmental clearance to the project. The Environment Ministry also denied Congress' claims last week, calling them misleading.

Ramesh insisted that "blatant irregularities" continue and said the government's reply in Parliament proves the area is protected. He urged authorities to stop the destruction of forests and protect Adivasi rights before any further action is taken.

Hindu Group Protests Muslim Admissions, Omar Defends Merit

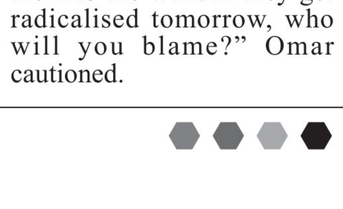
JAMMU

A fresh controversy broke out in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday over admissions to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME). A right-wing Hindu group opposed the selection of 42 Muslim students for MBBS seats, sparking sharp reactions from Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangarsh Samiti, led by retired Colonel Sukhbir Singh Mankotia, announced plans to launch an agitation. Mankotia claimed it was unjust that most of the 50 MBBS seats had gone to Muslim students. He argued that since the college is funded by Hindu devotees, admitting Muslims was against Islamic principles, calling it "Haram."

Addressing a press conference, Mankotia said district-level committees were being formed to begin protests. He also accused Omar Abdullah of not understanding Islam.

Responding strongly, the Chief Minister defended the



admissions, stressing that they were based purely on merit through NEET exams, not religion. "If you don't want Muslims to study here, change the statute of the university," Omar said. He added that one Sikh student was also among those admitted.

Omar warned that denying admissions on religious grounds could push Muslim students toward minority institutions, leading to marginalisation and even radicalisation. He reminded that when the Assembly passed the bill to establish SMVDIME, it was meant to be an institution of excellence, not a minority college.

"Be warned, by isolating Muslims you are pushing them to the wall. If they get radicalised tomorrow, who will you blame?" Omar cautioned.

Odisha Targets $500-Billion Economy By 2036

BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Tuesday said Odisha must grow nearly fivefold in the next decade to achieve its ambitious target of becoming a $500-billion economy by 2036. Speaking at the inauguration of the two-day 'Samruddha Odisha 2036' Conclave organised by the Utkal Chamber of Commerce & Industry Limited (UCCIL), Majhi noted that the state's current economy stands at around $120 billion.

"To reach $500 billion, we need strong growth in infrastructure, industry, and skill development," Majhi said. He highlighted that projects worth Rs 2 lakh crore have already been invested, leading to 84 new industries and creating 1.64 lakh jobs.

The Chief Minister announced that Bhubaneswar is being developed into a mega tech city, with fintech and insurtech firms, major IT companies, and two semiconductor industries being set up. The Capital Region Ring Road project will also boost expansion of the Cuttack–Bhubaneswar twin city.

Majhi said the conclave aligns with the state's development roadmap, including

Utkarsh Odisha, Make in Odisha, and Vision 2025. He stressed equal support for both large industries and MSMEs, offering policy incentives and smooth facilitation.

Listing upcoming investments, Majhi pointed to Indian Oil Corporation's Rs 80,000-crore petrochemical project and the Union government's Rs 50,000-crore shipbuilding approval. He added that Odisha is advancing in port-based industries, green energy, textiles, IT, chemicals, and petrochemicals.

"The state is creating the right ecosystem for advanced technologies. Odisha will soon emerge as a hub for study, innovation, and industry in eastern India," Majhi concluded.

DEVELOPMENT ISSUES PERSIST

Delhi Still Lacks Basic Civic Infrastructure Services

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday criticised previous governments for failing to deliver essential civic services in the national capital. She said that even today, many areas still do not have proper water and sewer lines. Water tankers remain the only main source in several colonies. She stated that after 15 years of Congress and 11 years of AAP rule, basic needs remain unmet for half of the population.

Gupta said that pipeline repair and desilting work have started after 27 years to tackle long pending water issues. She added that Delhi still depends on the 1973 master plan, and no updated system has been created in 50 years.

The Chief Minister also blamed legislators for not focusing on core needs. She

said funds were often shown only on documents and not used properly. She insisted that proper planning would ensure enough funds for development works.

Gupta announced beautification work on stretches, including the Ghanta Ghar-Azadpur corridor. The project will include better footpaths, roofing and improved roads. She also said old colonies would be upgraded.

Criticising the previous government's Mohalla Clinics, Gupta called them more of an advertisement model lacking facilities. She said the newly launched Ayushman Mandirs provide diagnostics, medicines and healthcare under one roof. Over 1,200 such centres have been set up. She also highlighted Jan Aushadhi Kendras that offer medicines at cheaper rates. Gupta promised no shortage of funds for civic improvement.

QUICK READ

RailTel Begins 10 MW Data Centre Project

New Delhi

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has praised RailTel Corporation of India for starting work on a 10 MW data centre in Noida. The project is being developed in partnership with Techno Electric & Engineering Company Limited. The minister said the centre will support India's data localisation goals and improve national data security. RailTel stated that the upcoming Silver Jubilee Data Centre will spread over 17,000 sq metres in Noida Phase 2, a fast-growing digital and industrial area in Uttar Pradesh.

Farmers Protest Urea Shortage, Traffic Hit Hard

Ujjain

Farmers in Ujjain held a major protest on Tuesday over the shortage and delay in urea fertiliser supply. The protest took place on the Ujjain-Agar (Malwa) highway, blocking traffic for several hours. Farmers locked the Ujjain mandi gate and sat on a dharna, saying fair price centres were not giving enough fertiliser. They claimed tokens were issued to 300 farmers daily, but only 70 to 80 received urea. Police and officials assured proper supply, after which farmers ended the protest and traffic resumed.

SC Directs Petitioners To Child Rights Panels

New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked petitioners alleging sexual abuse in ISKCON-run schools to approach child rights authorities. A bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and R. Mahadevan said the petitioners can give their complaints to the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. It added that state child rights commissions in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal should also consider the issue quickly if approached. The court disposed of the petition while giving liberty to file fresh representations before the concerned commissions.

PM Modi to Launch Safran Facility, Skyroot Rocket

Government reforms, including GST changes in 2024, MRO Guidelines 2021, and the National Civil Aviation Policy 2016, have simplified operations

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will showcase India's growing strength in aviation and space this week by inaugurating Safran Aircraft Engine Services India (SAESI) facility and unveiling Skyroot's first orbital rocket.

On November 26, PM Modi will inaugurate the SAESI facility, Safran's dedicated Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) center for LEAP engines that power Airbus A320neo and Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) described it as a major step toward Aatmanirbharta in aviation.

Spread across 45,000 square meters in GMR Aerospace and Industrial Park-SEZ, the Rs 1,300 crore facility is designed to service up to 300 engines annually. By 2035, it will employ over 1,000 skilled Indian technicians and engineers. The PMO said the facility will reduce foreign exchange outflows, create high-value jobs, and position India as a global aviation hub.

Government reforms, including GST changes in 2024, MRO Guidelines 2021, and the National Civil Aviation Policy 2016, have simplified operations for MRO providers, boosting sector growth.

On November 27, PM Modi will also unveil Skyroot's first orbital rocket, Vikram-I, and inaugurate its Infinity Campus via video conferencing. The campus, spread over 200,000 square feet, will design, develop, and test launch vehicles, with capacity to build one orbital rocket every month.

Skyroot, founded by IIT alumni and former ISRO scientists Pawan Chandana and Bharath Dhaka, earlier launched Vikram-S in 2022. The PMO said the rise of private space enterprises reflects India's success in reforms and its growing role as a global space power.

India, Afghanistan Strengthen Trade Ties During Minister's Visit

NEW DELHI

Afghan Minister of Industry and Commerce, Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi, visited India from November 19 to 25 with a trade delegation, according to the Ministry of External Affairs. The visit focused on boosting trade, connectivity, and economic cooperation between the two countries.

During his stay, Azizi met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. Both leaders discussed bilateral ties, connectivity projects, and people-to-people exchanges. Azizi also held delegation-level talks with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. The discussions covered trade facilitation, market access, and capacity-building. A key outcome was the announcement of an Air Freight Corridor connecting Kabul with Delhi and Amritsar, aimed at improving trade flows.

Both Ministers welcomed the reactivation of the Joint Working Group on Trade, Commerce, and Investment. They agreed to explore collaboration in mining and other high-value sectors. India and Afghanistan will also appoint Commercial Representatives at their embassies and establish a Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry to institutionalize cooperation.

Azizi met Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada and visited the India International Trade Fair (IITF 2025), where Afghan traders showcased products. He interacted with exhibitors and toured cultural displays at the fair.

Afghan Commerce Minister's India visit highlights trade, connectivity, and stronger bilateral cooperation

The Afghan delegation also held meetings with several Indian trade and export councils, including APEDA, TEXPROCIL, CCI, AEPC, MATEXIL, PHDCCI, ASSOCHAM, and PHARMEXCIL. Discussions focused on long-term supply of agricultural goods, medicines, and essential commodities to Afghanistan.

The visit reflects the commitment of both nations to deepen economic ties. India reaffirmed its readiness to work closely with Afghanistan to advance trade and investment partnerships that bring sustainable benefits to the people of both countries.

PMK to Decide Tamil Nadu Alliance on December 30

CHENNAI

The Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) will announce its election alliance on December 30, party founder Dr. S. Ramadoss said on Tuesday after a high-level meeting at Thailampuram Estate in Villupuram district.The meeting came amid internal tensions, with sections of administrators reportedly aligning separately with Dr. Ramadoss and party president Anbumani Ramadoss. Despite these divisions, the meeting saw full participation of the party's organizational machinery, including honorary president G.K. Mani, former president T. Thirumavalavan, general secretary Murali Shankar, MLA Arul, headquarters secretary Anbazhagan, and district-level leaders.Dr. Ramadoss chaired the discussions, focusing on two key issues: which party PMK should align with in the upcoming elections and which constituencies it should contest. PMK has previously been part of the NDA in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and the 2021 state Assembly polls.After the meeting, Ramadoss announced that a General Committee meeting will be held on December 30 at Thalaivasal in Attur, Salem district, where the final alliance decision will be made. He also declared a statewide protest on December 12 against the Tamil Nadu government for failing to conduct a caste-based census, accusing the state of ignoring long-standing demands for updated caste data.With Lok Sabha elections approaching and alliances in Tamil Nadu still fluid, PMK's stance is being closely watched.

Indian, Moroccan Navies Strengthen Maritime Security Cooperation

NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy and the Royal Moroccan Navy held detailed discussions in New Delhi on Tuesday to strengthen their naval partnership. Both sides focused on structured training exchanges, improving information-sharing, and expanding cooperation in maritime security.

Rear Admiral Mohamed Tahin, Inspector of the Royal Moroccan Navy, is on an official visit to India. He was welcomed with a ceremonial Guard of Honour at South Block Lawns by Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff. The two officers later held talks on enhancing defence cooperation, which has steadily grown between the two nations.

This visit follows Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's trip to Morocco in September,

highlighting continued high-level engagement. During his visit, Singh inaugurated Tata Advanced Systems Maroc's new manufacturing facility in Berrechid, calling it a milestone in global defence collaboration. He emphasized India's vision of "Make in India, Make with Friends, and Make for the World," showcasing India's readiness to partner with trusted allies in advanced defence technologies.

Singh also met Morocco's Defence Minister Abdeltif Loudiyi, where both leaders signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defence cooperation. The MoU provides a strong framework for collaboration in defence industry, joint exercises, military training, and capacity building.

The roadmap agreed upon includes cooperation in counter-terrorism, maritime security, cyber defence, peacekeeping, military medicine, and expert exchanges. Singh announced the opening of a new Defence Wing at the Indian Embassy in Rabat to give momentum to these initiatives.

Highlighting India's defence capabilities, Singh assured Morocco that Indian companies are well-positioned to meet its defence needs. The meeting marked a significant milestone, reflecting the growing convergence of strategic interests between India and Morocco.

PIB Warns Against Fake Defence Minister Letter Circulation

NEW DELHI

The Press Information Bureau's (PIB) Fact Check Unit has exposed a fake letter circulating widely on social media, falsely attributed to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The document, addressed to Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, claimed the Defence Minister had expressed concern over the public disclosure of a sensitive Indian Air Force (IAF) assessment.

Issuing an alert on its official social media handle, PIB Fact Check stated, "A letter is circulating on social media, allegedly issued by Union Defence Minister rajnathsingh to Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, concerning the public disclosure of a sensitive IAF assessment. Beware! This letter is fake!"

The PIB urged citizens not to share unverified documents, stressing that misinformation related to national security can have serious consequences. It advised the public to rely only on official Government of India sources for accurate updates and to forward suspicious documents to PIBFact-Check for verification.

The fake letter, dated November 22 and marked "Personal Confidential," appeared designed to create false impressions of discord within the defence establishment. Officials emphasized that such fabricated communications are dangerous, particularly when they involve the armed forces.

The government has repeatedly warned about rising misinformation campaigns targeting defence institutions. Earlier, PIB Fact Check flagged a viral AI-generated video of Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi. The manipulated clip falsely claimed that 50% of non-caste Hindu soldiers would be removed from the Army by 2028. PIB clarified that the video originated from Pakistani propaganda accounts aiming to mislead citizens and erode trust in the armed forces.

Authorities reiterated their commitment to combating fake news through statutory and institutional mechanisms, urging citizens to remain vigilant and responsible online.

WHO Warns of Rising Technology-Facilitated Gender Violence

NEW DELHI

The World Health Organization (WHO) has raised concern over the growing pace of technology-facilitated violence against women and girls.Latest estimates show that lifetime intimate partner violence (IPV) in the South-East Asia Region is 31.5%, among the highest across WHO regions. Digital violence, including cyberstalking, image-based abuse, trolling, doxing, and online harassment, is increasing sharply. UN Women reports that between 16% and 58% of women globally have faced some form of online violence. Data from India, Sri Lanka, and Malaysia revealed a 168% rise in misogynistic online posts during COVID-19 lockdowns. A survey by UN Women and the Inter-Parliamentary Union found that 60% of women parliamentarians in Asia-Pacific have experienced online gender-based violence.

Catharina Boehme, Officer-in-Charge, WHO South-East Asia, said the health impacts are severe, including anxiety, depression, sleep disorders, post-traumatic stress, and harm to sexual and reproductive health. She stressed that these harms are real, preventable, and unacceptable. This year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence carries the theme "End Digital Violence against Women and Girls: Safe Spaces for All." WHO emphasized that online violence is real violence and that safety and dignity must extend to digital spaces.

WHO's 14th General Progamme of Work (2025-2028) prioritizes addressing inequity and gender inequalities. The "RESPECT Women" framework offers policymakers a roadmap to prevent violence.

Ethiopian Volcanic Ash Disrupts Flights Across Indian Skies

NEW DELHI

Air travel across India faced major disruption on Tuesday as volcanic ash from Ethiopia drifted into Indian airspace, forcing airlines to cancel and delay several international flights.

Between 1 am and 6 pm, seven international flights were cancelled and twelve others delayed as carriers adjusted schedules to ensure passenger safety. Both incoming and outgoing services were affected, with airlines revising operations based on meteorological warnings.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), ash clouds from Ethiopia's Hayli Gubbi volcano are expected to clear Indian skies by 7:30 pm. The eruption, the first major activity in nearly 10,000 years, sent ash columns rising up to 14 km. The plume entered Gujarat on Monday, spreading overnight across Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Delhi-NCR, Haryana, and Punjab before shifting towards China.

The Toulouse Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre (VAAC) reported that the explosive phase began at 8:30 am GMT, generating a large ash plume that moved toward northern India. Strong winds carried the ash across the Red Sea to Yemen and Oman, eventually drifting over the Arabian Sea into western and northern India.

A haze settled over Delhi as the plume passed, worsening air quality to the "very poor" category and raising concerns among residents. IMD's Met Watch Offices in Mumbai, New Delhi, and Kolkata issued ICAO-standard SIGMET warnings, advising airports to avoid flagged airspace segments.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) circulated advisories to airlines, prompting IndiGo, Akasa Air, and KLM to revise schedules. Officials continue to monitor the plume's progression as operations gradually stabilize.

NCB Busts Marijuana Supply Chain in Jammu and Kashmir

SRINAGAR

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has dismantled a marijuana supply module in Jammu and Kashmir, arresting three people and seizing 2.730 kilograms of charas.

According to an official statement, the operation was carried out by the NCB Srinagar Zone in the Baramulla–Pulwama belt. Acting on specific intelligence, a team intercepted Bashir Ahmad Malla of Dhobiwan, Baramulla, on November 20 and recovered the contraband from his possession. Following interrogation and with the support of Baramulla Police, the NCB arrested his associate, Mansoor Ahmad Wani, also from Dhobiwan. Both were found to be actively involved in the supply chain. Based on their disclosures and further intelligence, the main supplier, Abdul Rashid Dar, was later apprehended from Pulwama, exposing the entire trafficking network. The statement noted that all three accused have previous criminal records under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. With their arrest, the module responsible for procurement, transportation, and distribution of charas has been dismantled. The NCB praised the timely cooperation of Baramulla Police, which played a crucial role in the success of the operation and strengthened inter-agency coordination in the region. Investigations are ongoing to trace financial trails, backward and forward linkages, and possible inter-state connections. The establishment of the NCB office in Srinagar is part of the Government of India's broader strategy to enhance narcotics enforcement in Jammu and Kashmir.

DOG LICENSES MANDATORY

Madras HC Told Muzzles Not Mandatory for Pet Dogs

CHENNAI

The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) informed the Madras High Court on Tuesday that pet owners are not required to muzzle their dogs in public spaces. The civic body clarified that its earlier communication on muzzling was only advisory and not enforceable.

Appearing before Justice V. Lakshminarayanan, GCC counsel A. Arun Babu said no fines would be imposed on pet parents for not using muzzles. The clarification came during a petition filed by the NGO People for Cattle in India, which highlighted that certain breeds, like Bulldogs, cannot wear muzzles due to their facial structure.

The GCC stressed that leashing dogs in public remains mandatory for safety. Pet owners who allow dogs to roam without a leash will face a Rs 500 penalty. Updating

the court on the city's pet licensing drive, the civic body said it had received 82,000 online applications, with 35,348 dogs vaccinated and certified. The deadline for licences has been extended to December 7, with flexibility for applicants.

On microchipping, GCC clarified it is a one-time requirement for identification, not an annual process. NGOs and animal welfare groups can register rescued animals and later transfer registrations to adoptive owners without extra charges.

The civic body assured there is no limit on the number of pets an individual may own. A recent portal glitch restricting users to four applications has been fixed. GCC also promised to correct the omission of Indian mongrels from the registration list.

After recording these submissions, the High Court closed the petition, noting the concerns had been addressed.

QUICK READ

663 rape cases in 9 months: B'desh sees alarming spike

Dhaka

As the world observes the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on Tuesday, fresh figures highlight a troubling reality in Bangladesh, where 663 women were raped in the first nine months of 2025, local media reported. The United Nations General Assembly designated November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in the year 2000, to raise awareness about all forms of violence against women. The data, released by the Dhaka-based Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), underscored what rights activists warn is a growing crisis driven by impunity, deteriorating law and order.

Jaffar Express attacked again in Balochistan's Bolan Pass

Quetta

The Jaffar Express has once again been attacked in the Bolan Pass area of Pakistan's Balochistan, the local media reported on Tuesday. The train was reportedly attacked for the sixth time between Quetta and Sibi during the past one and a half months, Pakistan's leading daily Dawn reported. Railway officials said the Jaffar Express was travelling from Quetta to Peshawar on Monday when the armed men targetted the train. According to railway officials, armed men opened fire at the train when it reached near Aab-i-Gum. Security personnel, including Railway police travelling on the train, retaliated.

Soldier injured after gunmen target security forces

Islamabad

A soldier was injured after armed gunmen targetted Pakistani security forces vehicle on a link road in Domel town of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district, local media reported on Tuesday. A police personnel stated that the injured soldier was rushed to hospital in Bannu cantonment. He said that security forces and police started a joint search operation in the entire area and killed and injured several terrorists, Pakistan's leading daily Dawn reported. He stated that security personnel besieged the area to arrest the fleeing attackers.

India, Afghan boost trade links with new air freight corridors

India and Afghanistan have launched two new Kabul air corridors to revive trade ties and strengthen bilateral economic cooperation

KABUL

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday announced the launch of two dedicated air freight corridors connecting Kabul with Delhi and Amritsar, marking a significant step toward enhancing trade connectivity between India and Afghanistan. The initiative aims to revive long-standing commercial ties disrupted in recent years and offer Afghan exporters a reliable alternative to land routes that have faced frequent logistical challenges.

According to the MEA, both nations have also agreed to appoint Commercial Representatives in their respective embassies, a move expected to streamline communication and improve trade facilitation. Additionally, India and Afghanistan will establish a Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry to further support business collaborations and resolve bottlenecks in bilateral trade.

The announcement follows a series of discussions between India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Afghanistan's Minister of Industry and Commerce Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi, who visited India from November 19 to 25. The talks focused on boosting agricultural and pharmaceutical trade, expanding market access, and exploring new opportunities in mining and other high-value sectors. The ministers also welcomed the revival of the Joint Working Group on Trade, Commerce and Investment, underlining their commitment to deepening cooperation.

During his visit, Azizi also met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to discuss connectivity, trade expansion, and stronger people-to-people engagement. The MEA said the visit reflects the commitment of both countries to build sustainable economic linkages that benefit their citizens.

Azizi's delegation participated in the India International Trade Fair, where Afghan traders showcased a variety of products. The team also interacted with major Indian industry bodies, including APEDA, TEXPROCIL, the Cotton Corporation of India, AEPC, and the Manmade and Technical Textiles Export Promotion Council, signaling renewed enthusiasm for bilateral commercial partnerships.

CPN-UML moves to SC challenging House dissolution

KATHMANDU

Nepal's CPN-UML has petitioned the Supreme Court to restore the dissolved House while preparing for upcoming elections

The Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist–Leninist), or CPN-UML, has filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court demanding reinstatement of the dissolved House of Representatives, even as it formally registered with the Election Commission for the upcoming parliamentary polls. The dual move reflects the party's strategy of legally challenging the government while simultaneously preparing for elections scheduled for March 5 next year.

Since being removed from power following the Gen-Z movement in early September, the party led by former Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli has repeatedly claimed that the dissolution of the Lower House was unconstitutional. On Tuesday, the party escalated its objections by moving the Supreme Court, arguing that both the House dissolution and the appointment of Prime Minister Karki violate constitutional provisions.

The writ petition, signed by former Chief Whip Mahesh Bartaula and whip Sunita Baral, contends that Prime Minister Karki's appointment is unconstitutional because she is neither a member of the House of Representatives nor eligible to hold executive office after previously serving as Chief Justice. According to the petitioners, this contradicts Articles 76 and 132(2) of Nepal's Constitution, rendering the dissolution of the House under her leadership invalid.

The petition also seeks to nullify President Ram Chandra Paudel's September 12 decision to dissolve the Lower House, urging the court to declare the period since September 9 void and restore the House to its previous status. This comes even as major political parties, including the Nepali Congress and the reconstituted Nepal Communist Party led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal, have accepted the electoral roadmap.

India and Vietnam to intensify collaboration

HANOI

India's Ambassador-designate Tshering Wangchuk Sherpa called on Vietnam's Politburo member and President of the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics (HCMNAP) Nguyen Xuan Thang besides meeting other senior office bearers of HCMNAP in Hanoi, on Tuesday.

Ambassador Sherpa, a 2002 batch Indian Foreign Service officer, was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Vietnam in September. He served as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) before his latest appointment.

Bridging ideas across domains between India and Vietnam. Ambassador-designate Tshering W Sherpa called on Politbureau Member and President of the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics (HCMNAP) H. E. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Thang and met senior Office Bearers of HCMNAP in Hanoi, today. Both sides reaffirmed enhancing cooperation and intensifying collaboration in new areas such as critical & emerging technologies, the Embassy of India in Hanoi posted on X. With people-to-people links being the backbone of bilateral relations with Vietnam, the Embassy of India and the Indian community in Hanoi showcased the cuisine of Incredible India, traditional handicrafts and the magic of henna art at the International Culinary Cultural Festival in Hanoi, last week. Members of the Indian community also performed classical Indian dances at the festival.

Dozens of Afghan migrants and activists were forcibly detained during late-night police raids in Islamabad's Argentina Park

Afghan migrants detained in late-night police raids

ISLAMABAD

Several Afghan migrants, including women activists, were beaten and detained after Islamabad police carried out sudden late-night raids at Argentina Park, Afghan media reported on Tuesday. The operation, conducted without prior notice, sparked widespread concern among rights groups who fear escalating pressure on vulnerable Afghan families residing in Pakistan.

Reportedly, police surrounded the park at around 1:30 am, where nearly 200 Afghan families and activists had been camping for the past four months. Eyewitnesses told the outlet that officers used physical force to dismantle tents and load people—many of them women and children—into police vehicles. A video shared by migrants showed distressed families being taken away in the dark.

They came, gathered everyone, dismantled all tents and loaded us into vehicles. Some children are injured. We don't know where they're taking us, one migrant said in a recorded message. Another activist, with visible injuries on her eye and forehead, said she was beaten while trying to defend the rights of Afghan women. I am here for the rights of women, for human rights. Because I am Afghan. Because I am a woman, she said.

Reports indicate that police warned of forcibly relocating nearly 400 vulnerable Afghan families back to Afghanistan, raising alarm among humanitarian organisations. Activists fear these actions violate international norms on refugee protection, especially for women and children fleeing Taliban repression.

Rights advocates have urgently appealed to international organisations and global media to intervene, stressing that ignoring the situation means abandoning people whose only weapon is the cry for justice.

This incident follows growing complaints from Afghan refugees about intimidation by local authorities. Migrants have reported frequent searches, arbitrary arrests, and exploitation by police officers who, according to victims, take advantage of their precarious legal status for monetary gain.

Pak strikes in Afghanistan condemned by ex-US envoy

WASHINGTON

Former US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad on Tuesday condemned the Pakistani attacks on Afghan territory, which killed 10 civilians, including nine children, and injured four others. His remarks came after the Afghan government confirmed that Pakistani forces on Tuesday midnight had struck a residential area in Khost province, killing 10 civilians, while separate air strikes in Kunar and Paktika provinces left four more injured. Taking to X, Khalilzad said, I condemn these attacks. My condolences to those who lost loved ones. The killing of civilians and risking a broader war is not the answer to the problems between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Patient and realistic diplomacy is a much better option. Citing reports, the former US envoy stated that a senior Turkish delegation is expected to visit Islamabad and possibly Kabul soon to facilitate an agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan to prevent their territories from being used by groups or individuals to threaten the security of each other. The agreement could include the establishment of an operation or monitoring office, perhaps based in Ankara and staffed by officials from Turkey, Qatar, Afghanistan and Pakistan. This centre could not only monitor but also problem-solve when allegations or reports of violations are received. I applaud this initiative and call on both Afghanistan and Pakistan to cooperate with this initiative, he added.

Kabul condemns Pakistani airstrikes as sovereignty violation

KABUL

Kabul on Tuesday strongly condemned the Pakistani air strikes in the Afghan provinces of Paktika, Khost and Kunar, describing them as an infringement of the country's sovereignty and a violation of all internationally recognised norms. According to the Afghan government, at least ten civilians, including nine children, were killed after Pakistani forces struck a residential area in Khost, while separate air strikes in Kunar and Paktika injured four civilians.

Zabihullah Mujahid, spokesman for the caretaker Afghan government, took to his social media platform, stressing that a necessary response would be taken at a proper time.

The airstrikes carried out last night by Pakistani forces in Afghanistan's Paktika, Khost, and Kunar provinces constitute a direct assault on Afghanistan's sovereignty and a clear breach of internationally recognised norms and principles by the Pakistani authorities, Mujahid posted on X.

Delegates to decide on global wildlife trade rules: CITES

SAMARKAND

In a historic first for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CITES CoP20), known as the World Wildlife Conference, officially opened in Uzbekistan, transforming the ancient Central Asian city into a centre of global conservation diplomacy. Hosted by the National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the opening ceremony featured vibrant traditional Uzbek music and dance performances. The segment underscored its pride in hosting this landmark event, bringing to life the official slogan of the meeting, CITES at 50 in Samarkand: Bridging Nature and People.

In his opening remarks, Aziz Abdukhakimov, Advisor to the President of Uzbekistan, Chair of the National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change and CITES CoP20 President, emphasized Uzbekistan's prioritization of the sustainable use of wildlife resources, stating: The declaration of 2025 as the 'Year of Environmental Protection and the Green Economy in Uzbekistan' reflects our strategic commitment to environmental sustainability and to transitioning to a green, resource-efficient development model… Uzbekistan is confidently emerging as one of the leading countries in the region and globally.

SUDOKU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

	2		4		3	7		6
			1	5				9
5	9		7			3	2	
	5	8		3				4
1	3		8		4	9		5
	4		2	1		6	8	
4	8		5	7	9	1	6	2
7		5		2			9	
	1		6		8		3	7

1	5	9	7	4	6	3	2	8
8	6	3	9	5	2	7	4	1
2	7	4	3	8	1	6	9	5
3	4	8	5	1	9	2	7	5
7	2	1	8	6	3	9	5	4
6	9	5	4	2	7	1	8	3
5	3	6	2	9	4	8	1	7
9	8	7	1	3	5	4	6	2
4	1	2	6	7	8	5	3	9

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

INDIA, CYPRUS TIES

India and Cyprus enhance collaboration in education

NICOSIA

India's High Commissioner to Cyprus, Manish, met Tonia Galati, Head of Business Development and Innovation at The Grammar School in Nicosia on Tuesday to discuss preparations for the High Commission's participation in the upcoming Grammar School Christmas Bazaar on December 7. The meeting also focused on exploring broader areas of collaboration between the High Commission and the school community.

According to a post shared by the High Commission of India in Cyprus on X, the two

sides held detailed discussions on potential partnerships in innovation and technology in education, health awareness programmes, tourism promotion, cultural initiatives, and wellness-focused activities. These collaborative avenues, officials said, hold strong potential to deepen engagement with the Grammar School community. The High Commissioner appreciated the school's progressive outlook and expressed India's readiness to enhance cooperation in these fields.

Meanwhile, earlier in the day in New Delhi, Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan met a visiting parliamentary delegation from Cyprus led by House of Representatives President Annita Demetriou. The meeting underscored the importance of strengthening parliamentary exchanges to enhance bilateral ties.

In a statement posted on X, the Vice President's Office noted that discussions highlighted the long-standing relationship between India and Cyprus and the shared commitment to further deepening the partnership through continued dialogue. The high-level interaction is part of a series of diplomatic engagements between the two nations.

On October 30, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held talks with his Cypriot counterpart Constantinos Kombos in New Delhi, where the two reviewed the India-Cyprus Joint Action Plan 2025–2029. Their discussions also covered regional developments, the global geopolitical situation, and cooperation in multilateral forums. Jaishankar expressed confidence that India-EU relations would strengthen further as Cyprus prepares to assume the European Union Presidency in 2026.

-313.70 SENSEX 84,587.01 | -74.70 PTS NIFTY 25,884.80 | +0.036 PAISE USD/INR 89.17 | +1.12 GOLD 125,86 /1GM | +2440 SILVER 157,680 /1KG

QUICK READ

Commercial vehicle, 2-wheeler sales surge in Oct on GST 2.0

New Delhi

Indian automobile industry witnessed a strong, demand-driven resurgence in October, with the commercial vehicle (CV) and two-wheeler segments posting robust growth in retail sales driven by the implementation of GST 2.0 reforms, which reduced tax rates, alongside strong festive sentiment and improved rural offtake, a report said on Tuesday. The CV sector demonstrated strong underlying demand, with retail volumes reporting a robust 17.7 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth and a significant 49.5 per cent sequential growth in October 2025. Light Commercial Vehicles (LCVs) were the standout performers, with retail volumes growing 29.8 per cent year-on-year and 64.3 per cent sequentially.

Power demand growth likely to be around 2% for FY26

New Delhi

The electricity demand is set to grow 1.5–2 per cent in FY26 down from the earlier estimate of 4–4.5 per cent, due to early monsoon and high base effect, a report said on Tuesday. The forecast from the ratings agency ICRA also cited that India doubled its power capacity addition in H1 FY25 to 25.7 GW, led by renewables, and is on track for 45-50 GW this fiscal year. India's electricity demand fell by 3 per cent YoY in the first 10 days of November 2025, according to Power System Operation Corporation (POSOCO) data.

Sensex, Nifty slip as markets react to Nov F&O expiry

Mumbai

Indian stock markets ended in the red on Tuesday as traders reacted to the monthly expiry of Nifty futures and options contracts for the November series. The Sensex closed 313.7 points lower at 84,587.01, a decline of 0.37 per cent. The Nifty also slipped, ending 74.7 points or 0.29 per cent down at 25,884.8. On the Nifty options front for the upcoming weekly expiry on December 2, significant call buildup was recorded at the 26,000 and 26,200 strike levels, while on the put side, notable additions were seen at the 26,000 and 25,500, experts said.

New labour codes will benefit unorganised workers: Goyal

India's new Labour Codes promise major improvements for gig and unorganised workers, simplifying processes and boosting protections nationwide

NEW DELHI

The recently enacted Labour Codes will provide substantial benefits to unorganised and gig workers, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday. He noted that these workers previously had to navigate numerous forms, inspections and complex regulations, whereas the new framework simplifies procedures and ensures access to proper facilities, social security and improved working conditions. According to the minister, both employers and employees have welcomed the reforms.

Addressing the National Conference of Trade Leaders, Goyal highlighted a series of recent measures aimed at strengthening ease of doing business and enhancing worker welfare. He urged traders to promote Swadeshi products, emphasising that suppliers should clearly mention the manufacturing location on product packaging. He added that shops could also display that they sell Swadeshi goods to encourage greater visibility for 'Made in India' items.

Goyal further said that significant progress has been made in improving the business environment through the Jan Vishvas Bill, which streamlines procedures and reduces compliance requirements. Responding to suggestions on the concept of One Nation, One License, he proposed that states like Delhi and Maharashtra could pilot a single online portal integrating both state and municipal trade licences.

The new Labour Codes, he stressed, aim to foster industrial peace, boost productivity and support a balanced, growth-oriented work ecosystem. They promote fairness, equity and inclusivity in the labour market by ensuring uniform wage standards and providing broader social security coverage. Overall, the Codes enhance economic justice, encourage formalisation and uphold the dignity of labour.

Sanchar Saathi recovers 50K stolen phones in October

NEW DELHI

DoT's Sanchar Saathi platform recovered over 50,000 stolen phones in October, marking a major milestone in digital security

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) announced on Tuesday that its digital safety initiative, Sanchar Saathi, enabled the recovery of more than 50,000 lost and stolen mobile phones across India in October this year. According to an official statement, the overall nationwide recovery has also crossed the 7-lakh mark, reflecting strong public trust in technology-driven governance.

Karnataka and Telangana have emerged as the top-performing states, each recording more than 1 lakh recoveries, followed closely by Maharashtra with over 80,000. The statement noted that monthly recoveries of lost and stolen devices surged by 47 per cent between June and October 2025, with more than one handset being recovered every minute across the country.

The achievement is powered by a robust, indigenously developed platform that integrates automated workflows with real-time device traceability. Sanchar Saathi prevents the misuse of blocked handsets by triggering alerts to both the registered user and the nearest police station whenever a SIM is inserted into a reported device, enabling swift recovery.

This progress is the outcome of seamless collaboration among state and UT police departments, the DoT's Digital Intelligence Unit (DIU) and its field formations (LSAs). Regular capacity-building efforts and partnerships with police forces have strengthened on-ground responsiveness and boosted operational efficiency.

The DoT has urged citizens to download the Sanchar Saathi app to report and block stolen devices, verify the authenticity of new or used phones before purchase, and report suspicious calls or messages. The app also allows users to cross-check trusted contact details of banks and financial institutions.

Goyal encouraged CAIT to organise a grand Swadeshi Mela, promoting indigenous enterprise and strengthening India's trade ecosystem

Goyal urges CAIT to host biggest-ever Swadeshi Mela in Delhi

NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday urged the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) to hold the biggest-ever Swdeshi Mela in the national capital in partnership with the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO). He said the proposed mega fair should act as a global platform that showcases the strength, innovation and diversity of Indian trade and industry, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of promoting indigenous enterprise worldwide.

Speaking at CAIT's national trade leaders conference, attended by more than 200 leading traders from 28 states, Goyal described India's traders as the backbone of the economy and one of its strongest growth pillars. He praised CAIT for its consistent initiatives and stressed the need for robust skill development programmes, greater opportunities for women entrepreneurs, improved systems to curb cyber fraud and the creation of a technology-driven, globally competitive trade environment.

Goyal further encouraged CAIT to collaborate with organisations such as Swadeshi Jagran Manch, Laghu Udyog Bharti and major trade associations to organise Swadeshi Melas across the country, building a nationwide vocal for local movement. He also offered CAIT the chance to take over the Skill Development Centre in his North Mumbai constituency to strengthen ongoing training initiatives.

Addressing the gathering, Chandni Chowk MP and CAIT secretary general Praveen Khandelwal praised the vital contribution of Indian traders. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Ease of Doing Business push has empowered traders through improved systems, modern technology and new growth opportunities. CAIT national president B.C. Bhartia highlighted the need to fortify CAIT's organisational structure across India and empower traders at the grassroots. He outlined a future roadmap focused on capacity building, policy advocacy, digital enablement and nationwide campaigns supporting comprehensive trade reforms.

77% of firms show rising confidence in trade policies: Report

NEW DELHI

Indian businesses are increasingly confident and better prepared to navigate the complexities of global trade, with 77 per cent reporting greater certainty about trade policy impact on their operations compared to six months ago, a new report said on Tuesday. Around 80 per cent of Indian businesses anticipate a positive impact from recent trade policy changes in the next two years, the report from HSBC India said.

Further, the proportion of Indian businesses feeling informed and well-prepared to respond to changing trade regulations rose to 49 per cent from 44 per cent six months earlier, the report said.

Only 23 per cent of Indian firms expect trade uncertainty to hurt operations over the next two years, lower than the global average at 32 per cent.

With the easing of uncertainties around tariffs, Asian firms anticipate a reduced impact of supply-chain disruption on their revenue compared to six months ago, the report noted. Indian businesses continue to stand out for their resilience and optimism. The survey highlights that business leaders in India are more confident than their global peers, with many expecting trade policy changes to positively impact their growth. This confidence reflects India's strong position in an evolving global trade landscape, said Mohit Agarwal, Head of Global Trade Solutions, HSBC India.

India Inc likely to post 8–10 pc revenue growth in Q3 FY26

NEW DELHI

India Inc. will sustain a healthy year-on-year revenue growth of 8–10 per cent in Q3 FY2026, compared to 9.2 per cent in Q2, driven by firm rural demand and a revival in urban consumption, a report said on Tuesday.

The report from ratings agency ICRA said the agency projects operating profit margins to improve by 50–100 bps on a year-on-year basis, and expects credit metrics to edge up with interest coverage at 5.3–5.5 times against 5 times in Q2 FY26.

Domestic rural demand remains resilient and tailwinds like GST rate rationalisation, income tax relief announced during the Union Budget 2025, 100 bps interest rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India between February 2025 and November 2025 (leading to lower borrowing costs) and easing food inflation are expected to boost urban consumption, said Kinjal Shah, Senior Vice President & Co-Group Head – Corporate Ratings, ICRA Limited.

The ongoing geopolitical tensions and steep US tariffs continue to impact demand sentiments, especially for export-oriented sectors such as agro-chemicals, textiles, auto and auto components, seafoods, cut and polished diamonds, and IT services, Shah added.

ICRA's analysis of 2,966 companies revealed that Q2 revenue growth was led by retail, hotels, autos, capital goods and cement, though sequential growth was just 2.5 per cent due to seasonal slowdowns in demand in the oil & gas, airlines and power sector and deferment of purchases in the consumer durables and FMCG sector ahead of GST rate cuts.

Corporate India reported a YoY rise in OPM by 140 bps to 16.1 per cent in Q2 FY2026. The margin expansion in sectors like telecom, cement and oil & gas was led by improved demand and better realisations.

India's GCC faces talent poaching, rising salary pressures

NEW DELHI

India's Global Capability Centre (GCC) sector is entering a highly competitive phase as companies grapple with rising talent poaching, salary inflation, and high attrition, even as the country continues to offer one of the world's most cost-efficient operating environments. According to a new whitepaper by SPAG FINN Partners, India provides GCCs with nearly 40% lower operational costs compared to Europe, supported by fast-growing hubs in tier-2 and tier-3 cities such as Kochi, Coimbatore, Jaipur, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, and Chandigarh.

The report noted that India currently hosts over 1,700 GCCs and nearly 3,000 centres, generating $64.9 billion in revenue and employing around 1.9 million professionals. This figure is projected to climb to $100 billion by 2030. However, attrition levels remain high at 15–20%, especially in AI, machine learning, and digital transformation roles. About 60% of all recruitment now happens from other GCCs, intensifying internal competition.

Demand for specialised tech skills continues to soar, pushing salary premiums up by 30–50%. Despite these challenges, India retains a strong advantage with a vast pool of 5.4 million technology professionals and a youthful workforce, 65% of whom are below 35 years of age.

India's data centre revenue to hit ₹20,000 cr by FY28: Crisil

NEW DELHI

Revenue of India's data centre operators is expected to reach Rs 20,000 crore annually by fiscal 2028, translating to a robust annual growth of 20-22 per cent as both enterprises and retail consumers dial up usage of digital technologies and platforms, according to a report on Tuesday. To cater to the buoyant demand, capacity in the industry is expected to double to 2.3-2.5 gigawatt (GW) by March 2028. While capital expenditure (capex) is set to rise and will require sizeable debt funding, credit profiles should remain healthy as stable cash flows from operating capacities will keep leverage (Ebitda) in control, Crisil Ratings said in its report. According to the report, data centre operators making up 75-80 per cent of the operational capacity in India indicate as much.

The data centre industry growth will be driven by three factors: the rapid adoption of public cloud by enterprises amid ongoing digital transformation and technological advancements. Growing investments in artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, and proliferation of 5G technology, which drives demand for low-latency applications, such as video streaming, gaming, and internet of things-based devices, requiring data centre capacity in proximity to demand.

The healthy revenue growth of 20-22 per cent for data centre operators will emanate from robust industry capacity addition, which is expected to double by March 2028, said Anand Kulkarni, Director, Crisil Ratings.

BHIM INTRODUCES UPI CIRCLE FULL DELEGATION

NEW DELHI

NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL), a subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India, on Tuesday launched a new feature called UPI Circle Full Delegation on the BHIM Payments App.

This feature allows users to authorise trusted people -- such as family members, children, staff, or dependents -- to make UPI payments directly from their account within a fixed monthly limit.

The aim is to make shared financial responsibilities easier while ensuring full control and transparency for the primary account holder. With Full Delegation, a primary user can permit a secondary user to make UPI payments without needing real-time approval every time. The primary user can set a monthly spending limit of up to Rs 15,000 and can choose a validity period of up to five years.

This makes everyday payments smoother for households and small businesses, especially when managing expenses for senior citizens, young adults, or digitally inexperienced users.

The feature also allows authorised users to make payments without linking their own bank account, making digital transactions more accessible. NBSL MD & CEO Lalitha Nataraj said that Full Delegation takes UPI Circle to the next level by enabling trusted and autonomous payments within defined limits.

She added that the feature reflects how Indian families and businesses work in real life, based on trust and accountability, and ensures that the BHIM App continues to offer simple, safe, and inclusive digital payment solutions.

This feature will be particularly useful for senior citizens who are often hesitant to use digital payments, as well as for parents who wish to give their children controlled spending access. Small business owners can also benefit by allowing staff to pay for daily operational expenses such as fuel or toll payments while maintaining clear oversight.

FM INDICATES INFLATION

Household net financial assets rise 6% in FY25: FM

MUMBAI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said household net financial assets rose to ₹9.9 lakh crore, or 6 per cent of GDP, in FY25, up from 5.3 per cent in FY24. Citing RBI data, she noted that this marks a strong rebound from the steep decline in FY23, when savings had fallen to 4.9 per cent of GDP — the lowest level since the early 1970s.

At the same time, households' financial liabilities saw a sharp contraction. Liabilities dropped to ₹15.7 lakh crore in FY25, or 4.7 per cent of GDP, compared to ₹18.8 lakh crore (6.2 per cent of GDP) recorded a quarter earlier. The moderation aligns with overall credit growth slowing to 12 per cent in FY25 from 16 per cent in FY24, partly due to tighter rules for unsecured and retail lending.

RBI data shows that gold-backed loans continued to rise, reflecting a preference for quick, collateralised borrowing, though the pace appears to be stabilising under increased regulatory scrutiny. However, the most striking trend is the surge in equity investments. Market-linked instruments accounted for an all-time high of 15.1 per cent of household financial assets in FY25, up significantly from 8.7 per cent in FY24 and 7.3 per cent in FY23.

This rapid growth highlights rising household confidence in capital markets, fuelled by strong equity performance and prospects of higher returns. Meanwhile, the share of bank deposits declined to 35.2 per cent in FY25 as savers continued shifting away from low-yield traditional instruments in favour of more market-driven avenues.

Sushmita Bhat Joins Karavali Film With Strong New Role

The upcoming Kannada movie Karavali continues to attract attention with exciting new updates. After the recent announcement of actor Raj B. Shetty playing the lead role of Mahaveera, the film team has now welcomed rising actress Sushmita Bhat. She has already acted in two films, and Karavali will be her third big-screen project. Known for her active presence on social media through stylish photoshoots, Sushmita is now ready to impress audiences with her acting skills.

The makers have released the poster introducing her character. In the movie, Sushmita will be seen as a typical Mangaluru girl in a special role. When the team approached her, she accepted happily without hesitation.

Speaking about joining the film, Sushmita said that Raj B. Shetty was the main reason she said yes. There is so much to learn from him. Even though my shooting days were few, I learned a lot. He is always full of energy and active on the set. Working with him was a wonderful experience, she shared.

Karavali features a strong star cast including Prajwal Devaraj, Sampada, Raj B. Shetty, Mitra, Ramesh Indira, and Sridhar in powerful roles. The film is directed by Gurudatha Ganiga and produced under VK Film Association in association with Ganiga Films.

The story of Karavali focuses on the conflict between humans and animals and is set in a complete village background. Sachin Basrur has composed the music while Abhimanyu Sadanandan manages the cinematography. The team believes the film will offer a strong message along with entertainment.

Nadubettu Appanna Gains Praise At Prestigious Film Festivals

The semi-Tulu film Nadubettu Appanna, produced by Bhavishya Cinemas, is getting ready for release. Even before reaching theatres, the movie has received appreciation. It was screened for two days at the Kolkata International Film Festival and also at the Mysuru Dasara Film Festival, where viewers praised its message.

The film is directed by singer Anupama Sharadhi. With this movie, she joins the list of women directors in the Kannada film industry. She has earlier worked on government documentaries. The story is written by Kumar Eshwar, while Anupama has written the screenplay and dialogues along with directing and producing the film.

Nadubettu Appanna tells the story of Appanna, a miserly man living in a remote village called Dabbadka. The villagers often face elephant attacks on their farms and houses. The village does not have basic facilities like roads, hospitals, or schools. To reach the nearest town, they must travel on a raft, which has caused many deaths.

Appanna does not care about others, not even his own family. But when an elephant destroys his farm, he loses his wife and son. This tragedy changes him. He understands that saving money is useless if his home and farmland are unsafe. Regretting his selfish life, he donates his property to the government through a trust for the welfare of the village.

Nataraj Honnavalli plays the lead role. Sumathi, Nishanth, Jagannath, and others are in the cast. Cinematography is by Abhishek Anagalli and Dhanush Mysuru, and music is by Kumar Eshwar.

Parasakthi countdown begins, Sivakarthikeyan readies political drama

The countdown has officially begun for Sivakarthikeyan's landmark 25th film, Parasakthi. Dawn Pictures announced that the much-awaited political action-drama will release worldwide on January 14, 2026, setting the stage for one of the biggest Tamil cinema events of the year.

Directed by Sudha Kongara, Parasakthi marks her second collaboration with Sivakarthikeyan after the acclaimed Sarpatta Parambarai in 2021. The film's newly released poster has already created a buzz, showcasing Sivakarthikeyan, Ravi Mohan, Atharvaa, and newcomer Sreeleela in striking revolutionary attire. The visuals highlight the film's themes of protest, resistance, and social

struggle, rooted in the historic 1965 Anti-Hindi agitations in Tamil Nadu.

Music by GV Prakash is expected to add emotional depth and intensity to the film's narrative. Produced by Aakash Bhaskaran under Dawn Pictures, Parasakthi also features a strong supporting cast including Dev Ramnath, Prithvi Rajan, Guru Somasundaram, Basil Joseph, Papri Ghosh, and Rana Daggubati. Together, the ensemble promises to deliver a gripping story that blends political history with personal drama.

The film is being positioned as more than just entertainment—it aims to capture the spirit of Tamil Nadu's cultural memory while offering audiences a mix of action, emotion, and historical relevance. With Sudha Kongara's proven storytelling and Sivakarthikeyan's growing stature as a versatile actor, expectations are soaring. As the 50-day countdown begins, fans are eagerly waiting to witness a cinematic spectacle that combines powerful performances, historical accuracy, and socially charged themes. Parasakthi is already shaping up to be one of the most anticipated Tamil releases of 2026.

Rakul Preet Singh warns fans of fake WhatsApp impersonator

Actress Rakul Preet Singh has issued a strong warning to her fans after discovering that an imposter is misusing her name and images on WhatsApp to deceive people. The actress revealed that the fake account has been contacting individuals using the number 8111067586, pretending to be her and engaging in misleading conversations.

On November 24, Rakul took to her verified X (formerly Twitter) account to alert her followers. Sharing a screenshot, she wrote, Hi guys... it's come to my notice that someone is impersonating on WhatsApp as me and chatting with people. Please notice this isn't my number and do not engage in any random conversations. Kindly block. She emphasized that interacting with such accounts could put fans at risk, especially if they are pressured to share personal or financial details.

Her quick response aims to stop the scam from spreading further and to protect her loyal fan base from exploitation. By posting through her official profile, Rakul demonstrated proactive steps to safeguard her community against identity theft.

Reports highlight that impersonation scams targeting celebrities have become increasingly common. Actresses Aditi Rao Hydari and Shriya Saran have previously faced similar situations, urging their fans to remain cautious when receiving unexpected messages.

Rakul, who continues to shine in Indian cinema with recent roles including De De Pyaar De 2, reminded her supporters of the importance of vigilance in today's digital age. She expressed gratitude to her fans and reinforced the need to stay alert to prevent online fraud and protect personal safety.

Be Dune Teen trailer highlights love, chaos, and parenting journey

The trailer of the upcoming Marathi original series Be Dune Teen has been released on social media, giving audiences a heartfelt look into the highs and lows of partnership and parenting. The show stars Kshitish Date, Pushkaraj Chirputkar, and Shivani Rangole in lead roles, and follows the story of Abhay and Neha, a young couple whose lives change dramatically when they discover they are expecting not one baby, but triplets.

The promo captures the emotional journey of the couple as they navigate love, responsibility, and the chaos of parenthood. Hema V.R., Business Head of Marathi ZEE5, said, At Marathi ZEE5 we take pride in creating stories that reflect the emotional heartbeat of Maharashtrian households. Be Dune Teen is a beautiful extension of that vision, showing how joy and chaos coexist in real-life relationships.

Directors Atharva Soundankar and Himanshu Pile explained that the series aims to feel both intimate and cinematic. Abhay and Neha's relationship is beautifully flawed. They argue, they make mistakes, but they love deeply and grow together. Told across multiple timelines, the story explores laughter, heartbreak, and reunion, while capturing humor in ordinary moments and tenderness in everyday chaos, they shared.

Kshitish Date, who plays Abhay, described the role as deeply relatable. Abhay is trying to balance love, fear, and excitement while suddenly becoming father to three babies. It creates chaos but also vulnerability. I believe every couple and family will see themselves in this journey, he said.

Scarlett Johansson joins Mike Flanagan's new Exorcist film

Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson is set to headline the next chapter of The Exorcist franchise, with writer-director Mike Flanagan confirming her casting. The announcement has sparked excitement among fans of the iconic horror series, which first terrified audiences in 1973.

Speaking about Johansson's involvement, Flanagan said, Scarlett is a brilliant actress whose captivating performances always feel grounded and real, from genre films to summer blockbusters, and I couldn't be happier to have her join this Exorcist film. The project is being produced by Blumhouse-Atomic Monster, Morgan Creek Entertainment, and Red Room Pictures.

Keerthy Suresh recalls lull, readies for Revolver Rita

Keerthy Suresh, one of the brightest stars in Indian cinema, has spoken about a surprising pause in her career after the huge success of Mahanati. The biopic, directed by Nag Ashwin, won her a National Award and praise from critics and audiences alike. Yet, despite the film's triumph, Keerthy revealed that she did not receive any new offers for nearly six months. Speaking at a recent press meet, she said, Would you believe me if I say that after Mahanati, I didn't get any films for almost six months? No one even came to narrate a script to me. The actress explained that she did not feel upset by the silence. Instead, she chose to see it as a positive break. I wasn't disappointed because I knew I hadn't done anything wrong. I thought people were taking time to create a strong role for me. I used that gap to work on a makeover, she added.

In Mahanati, Keerthy played the legendary actress Savitri, a role that cemented her place as one of the most promising talents in the industry. The film also featured Dulquer Salmaan, Samantha, and Vijay Deverakonda in key roles.

Now, Keerthy is preparing for her next big release, Revolver Rita, which will hit theatres this weekend.

IND vs SA, 2nd Test: India Reel at 27/2 Chasing 549 on Day 4

India face an uphill battle after losing two early wickets chasing 549

GUWAHATI

India ended Day 4 of the second Test in deep trouble at 27 for 2, staring at a massive target of 549 runs set by South Africa, who are eyeing a clean sweep in the two-match series. Openers Yashasvi Jaiswal (13) and KL Rahul (6) fell cheaply, leaving the hosts in disarray on a difficult surface. Jaiswal was dismissed in the seventh over by pacer Marco Jansen, while Rahul succumbed to off-spinner Simon Harmer in the 10th. At stumps, Sai Sudharsan (2 off 25) and night-watchman Kuldeep Yadav (4 off 22) were holding fort, with India still needing 522 runs to level the series.Earlier in the day, South Africa strengthened their grip through a composed batting display led by Tristan Stubbs, who missed a century by six runs, scoring a gritty 94 off 180 balls. Tony de Zorzi contributed 49, and the pair added 101

runs for the fourth wicket, blunting India's spin challenge. Stubbs also forged an 82-run stand with Wiaan Mulder (35) before the Proteas declared at 260/5.

For India, Ravindra Jadeja impressed with figures of 4/62, while Washington Sundar claimed 1/67, but the hosts were left with a mountain to climb.

With only one day remaining, South Africa remain firm favourites to clinch the series 2-0 while India's hopes now rest on a miracle.

Match Situation
- Target for India: **549**
- India at Stumps: **27/2 (15.5 overs)**
- Required to win: **522 runs**

Key Indian Wickets Lost
- Yashasvi Jaiswal – **13 (b Jansen)**
- KL Rahul – **6 (b Harmer)**

Top SA Performers
- Tristan Stubbs – **94**
- Tony de Zorzi – **49**
- SA Declared: **260/5**

Top Indian Bowlers
- Ravindra Jadeja – **4/62**
- Washington Sundar – **1/67**

India-Pakistan T20 World Cup Clash Set for Feb 15 in Colombo

MUMBAI

India and Pakistan will meet in a blockbuster ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 clash on February 15 in Colombo, according to the schedule released in Mumbai on Tuesday. The contest at the R Premadasa Stadium will be India's third group-stage match and marks the teams' first encounter since India swept their high-voltage Asia Cup trilogy earlier this year.

India begin title defence with high-voltage Pakistan clash scheduled early in tournament.

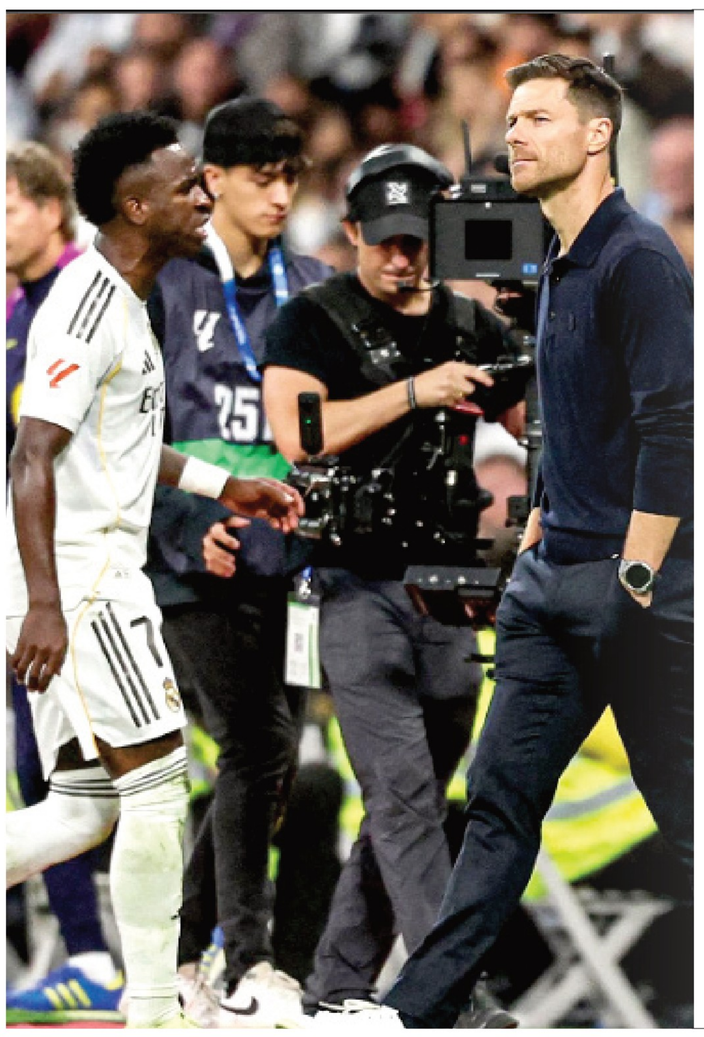
The 2026 edition, jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka, will run from February 7 to March 8. India begin their title defence against the USA on the opening day in Mumbai, followed by a February 12 fixture against Namibia in Delhi. Their final group match will be against the Netherlands at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium. India, Pakistan, the USA, Namibia, and the Netherlands form Group C. Three matches will be played each day during the group phase. As per the logistical arrangement between hosts, Pakistan will play all group-stage matches only in Colombo or Kandy. The tournament retains the 20-team structure introduced in 2024. The top two teams from each of the four groups will qualify for the Super Eight stage, where they will be divided into two groups of four. India's Super Eight fixtures, if they qualify, are slated for Ahmedabad, Chennai and Kolkata. Should India reach the semifinals, their knockout match will be held in Mumbai. The second semifinal will be hosted in Colombo or Kolkata, depending on whether Pakistan or Sri Lanka advance.

Group C- India's Group
- India
- Pakistan
- USA
- Namibia
- Netherlands

India's Group-Stage Fixtures
- **Feb 7:** vs USA (Mumbai)
- **Feb 12:** vs Namibia (Delhi)
- **Feb 15:** vs Pakistan (Colombo)
- **Feb 20:** vs Netherlands (Ahmedabad)

Tournament Timeline
- **Feb 7–20:** Group Stage
- **Feb 22–29:** Super Eight
- **March 4 & 5:** Semifinals
- **March 8:** Final (Ahmedabad)

***May shift to Colombo if Pakistan qualify.**



Vinicius Jr Halts Renewal amid Growing Rift with Xabi Alonso

MADRID

Real Madrid's long-term squad blueprint has been shaken after star winger Vinicius Junior reportedly told club president Florentino Perez that he will not renew his contract under current conditions, signalling a deepening rift with manager Xabi Alonso. The Athletic reported that Vinicius communicated his stance in a private meeting last month, making it clear that a contract extension is unlikely unless his situation under Alonso improves.

Vinicius's current deal runs until 2027 and carries a €1 billion release clause, and while Real Madrid have offered a renewal worth around €20 million net annually, negotiations have stalled. Sources close to the player insist the issue is not primarily financial but rooted in trust, playing time, and his role within Alonso's project.

The friction is believed to have started during the Club World Cup semi-final in July, when Alonso initially intended to bench Vinicius and later deployed him on the right wing, a position the Brazilian has long resisted. Since then, he has started only four of Madrid's last 17 matches and completed the full 90 minutes just five times.

The tension became unmistakable during the 2-1 El Clásico win over Barcelona on October 26. Despite being instrumental in the victory, Vinicius was substituted in the 71st minute and reacted angrily, heading straight to the tunnel.

Rohit Sharma Named Ambassador as Excitement Builds for 2026 T20 WC

NEW DELHI

In a significant announcement ahead of the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, former India captain Rohit Sharma has been appointed the official ambassador for the tournament.

Rohit, widely regarded as one of the finest T20I batters of his generation, retired from the format after guiding India to the 2024 World Cup title in the Americas, a victory that ended the team's 11-year drought for an ICC trophy.

Over the course of his illustrious T20I career, Rohit accumulated 4,231 runs, averaging 32.01 with an impressive strike rate of 140.89, cementing his status among cricket's elite. His association with the upcoming edition is expected to boost fan engagement and global interest. Adding to the buzz, the ICC confirmed that traditional rivals India and Pakistan will face off once again, having been drawn together in Group A.

They are joined by USA, Netherlands and Namibia, making it one of the most closely watched groups of the tournament.

With venues across India and Sri Lanka gearing up to host matches, the release of the full schedule has already ignited excitement among cricket enthusiasts, who eagerly await another thrilling chapter in the sport's shortest format.

World Athletics Continental Silver Level meet in 2026

KOLKATA

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) on Tuesday unveiled a packed domestic calendar for 2026, highlighted by the World Athletics Continental Tour Silver Level meet, upgraded from the Bronze Level, and the inaugural National Indoor Championships.

The National Indoor Championships are scheduled for March 24 and 25, marking a significant step in expanding India's indoor athletics ecosystem. Later in the year, the upgraded Continental Tour Silver meet will be held in August at Bhubaneswar's Kalinga Stadium, a venue that continues to strengthen its reputation as a premier athletics hub.

Kalinga Stadium will also host the first-ever Indoor Open Combined Events and Pole Vault competition in May, providing more competitive opportunities for specialised athletes.

In a major developmental push, AFI announced a 16-part Indian Athletics Series, to be conducted from April to September, aimed at encouraging wider regional participation and spotting emerging talent.

Overall, the 2026 domestic athletics season will feature 40 competitions, designed to help Indian athletes refine their skills and build momentum ahead of the 2026 Asian Games.

Raina Defends Gambhir, Says Batters Must Take Responsibility for Losses

NEW DELHI

Former India batter Suresh Raina has thrown his weight behind head coach Gautam Gambhir amid mounting criticism over the team's poor performances in the ongoing Test series against South Africa. With India staring at a rare home series defeat, Raina insisted that the responsibility lies squarely with the batters, not the coach.

Gambhir has been under scrutiny since India's 30-run loss in the first Test at Eden Gardens, and pressure intensified after South Africa took firm control of the second Test in Guwahati. The visitors' dominance has placed India on the brink of their first home Test series defeat to the Proteas since 1999–2000.

Raina, speaking to journalist Abhishek Tripathi, defended Gambhir's methods. "A coach can only guide. The batsman has to score runs on the field. No fault of the coach," he said, stressing that international cricket demands tougher preparation from players. His comments came as India's batting lineup continued to falter, collapsing for 201 in their first innings while South Africa posted a commanding 489. Gambhir's tenure has been marked by mixed results. After a strong start with a 2–0 win over Bangladesh at home, India were swept 0–3 in New Zealand, then suffered a 1–3 defeat in Australia. Under new captain Shubman Gill, the team managed a 2–2 draw in England and a 2–0 home win against the West Indies.

Hardik Pandya Cleared for SMAT Return as Baroda Coach Confirms Availability

VADODARA

Indian all-rounder Hardik Pandya is poised to make his full return to competitive cricket in the upcoming Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) after an extended injury layoff. The Baroda star, sidelined since sustaining a quadriceps injury during the Asia Cup 2025, has now been cleared to participate in most of Baroda's group-stage matches, according to head coach Mukund Parmar. Hardik's injury, suffered during India's final Super 4 match of the Asia Cup, kept him out of the final against Pakistan, the Australia tour, and the ongoing home series against South Africa. His rehabilitation at the BCCI Centre of Excellence saw a brief setback with a re-injury scare, but the 32-year-old has reportedly regained full fitness and is eager to return. Baroda will open their SMAT 2025 campaign against Bengal on November 26, marking Hardik's first appearance in the tournament since 2024, when he played under brother Krunal Pandya's leadership. Parmar confirmed that the team management is confident of his readiness and expects him to feature prominently in the early fixtures. Hardik's return is also seen as a crucial step toward reclaiming his spot in India's T20I squad for the upcoming South Africa series, beginning December 9. Selectors are expected to monitor his domestic performances closely, and reports suggest that he will be considered for national selection only after proving match fitness. He has already been rested from the ODI leg of the series as part of a cautious workload plan. Baroda's squad includes experienced names such as Krunal Pandya, Jitesh Sharma, and Vishnu Solanki, alongside rising talents like Shivalik Sharma and Raj Limbani, giving the team a balanced look for the T20 competition. As India prepares for a demanding cricket calendar, Hardik's successful return could provide the side with much-needed depth in the all-rounder department.

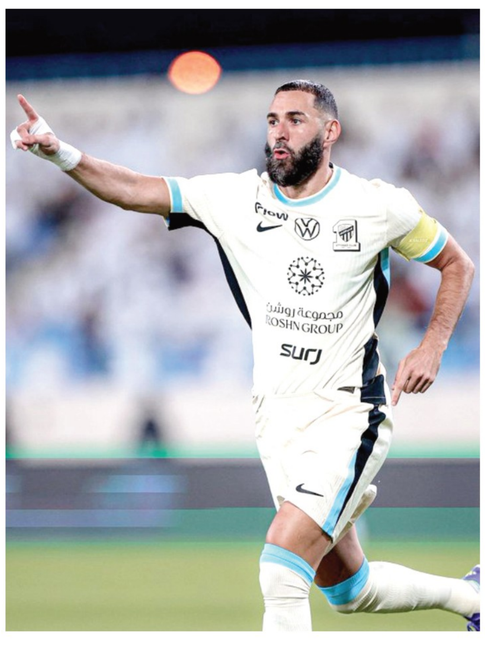
Benzema Brace Not Enough as Al-Ittihad Fall 4–2 to Al-Duhail

DOHA

Karim Benzema scored a late brace, but Al-Ittihad's struggles in the Asian Champions League Elite continued as the Saudi Pro League champions fell 4–2 to Qatar's Al-Duhail. The defeat marked Ittihad's third loss in five group-stage matches, further jeopardising their hopes of securing a place in the knockout round.

The revamped continental competition features 12 teams in the western zone, with only the top eight advancing. Al-Ittihad, twice champions of Asia, now face a steep climb after being overwhelmed for most of the match in Doha.

Algerian forward Adil Boulbina was the star for Al-Duhail, completing a commanding hat-trick



that put his side firmly in control. He struck twice before halftime, capitalising on defensive lapses, and added his third just seven minutes into the second half. Polish striker Krzysztof Piątek deepened Ittihad's misery, making it 4–0 with a precise finish in the 74th minute.

Only then did Ittihad find momentum. Benzema, who has endured a mixed spell in Saudi Arabia, scored twice in the closing stages to give his side faint hope, but the deficit proved too large to overturn. The late rally was not enough to salvage points or mask the broader issues plaguing the Jeddah giants in continental competition. Elsewhere, Ittihad's city rivals Al-Ahli suffered a 1–0 defeat at home to the United Arab Emirates' Al-Sharjah. Ousmane Camara scored in the 81st minute, and although Al-Ahli believed they had equalised in stoppage time, Ziyad Al-Johani's effort was ruled out for offside.

Earlier in the day, Iran's Tractor strengthened their campaign with a 1–0 win over Nasaf Qarshi in Uzbekistan to climb to second in the group behind Al-Hilal. Al-Ahli Dubai also impressed, securing a 2–0 victory over Qatar's Al-Gharafa to keep their qualification hopes alive.

Srikkanth Slams Gambhir over 'Chop-and-Change' Selection

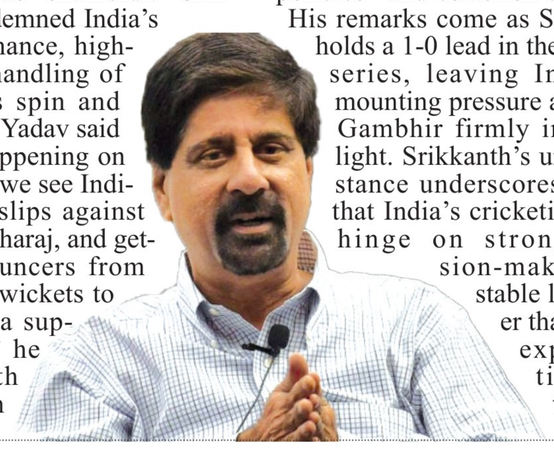
Srikkanth said India might draw but must fix selection issues and consistency

GUWAHATI

Former India captain and ex-BCCI chief selector Krishnamachari Srikkanth launched a scathing attack on head coach Gautam Gambhir over team selection after South Africa dominated the second Test in Guwahati. Srikkanth accused Gambhir of a "chop-and-change" approach, questioning the omission of consistent performers like Axar Patel.

"Why isn't Axar Patel playing? Was he unfit? Every alternate match someone is making a debut. They can call it trial and error. Gautam Gambhir can say whatever he wants — I don't care. I have been a former captain and former chairman of selectors. I know what I'm talking about," Srikkanth said.

This latest outburst follows previous criticism of Gambhir's selection of pacer Harshit Rana, which Gambhir dismissed as "shameful." Srikkanth also condemned India's overall performance, highlighting poor handling of South Africa's spin and pace. "Kuldeep Yadav said nothing was happening on the pitch. Then we see Indians edging to slips against Harmer and Maharaj, and getting out to bouncers from Jansen — five wickets to short balls on a supposed 'road,'" he said. Srikkanth praised Simon Harmer's classical spin, contrasting it with India's spinners who "fire it flat," and criticised captain Rishabh Pant's reckless shot selection. "They will say it's his natural game, but he is the captain. Shouldn't he see the match situation?" While acknowledging India could still fight for a draw, Srikkanth stressed that the team must address "wrong selection policies" and establish consistency.



His remarks come as South Africa holds a 1-0 lead in the two-match series, leaving India under mounting pressure and keeping Gambhir firmly in the spotlight. Srikkanth's unapologetic stance underscores his belief that India's cricketing fortunes hinge on stronger decision-making and a stable lineup, rather than continual experimentation at the top level.

India Set to Host 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad

NEW DELHI

India is all set to formally receive the hosting rights for the 2030 Commonwealth Games at the Commonwealth Sport's General Assembly in Glasgow today. While the bid was largely assured over a month ago, the Assembly will officially confirm the decision, marking a milestone in India's ambition to become a global multi-sport hub. India last hosted the Games in 2010 in Delhi, but the 2030 edition will be staged in Ahmedabad, a city that has upgraded its sporting infrastructure at war footing over the last decade. Key venues include the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave, which will feature an aquatics centre, football stadium, indoor arenas, and an athletes' village for 3,000 participants. The Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium, with a capacity of over one lakh, will also host events.

Ahmedabad prepares for grand Commonwealth Games 2030 after major sports infrastructure upgrades

Ahmedabad has already showcased its organisational capabilities by hosting the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships, Asian Aquatics Championships, AFC Under-17 Asian Cup Qualifiers, and will host the Asian Weightlifting Championship and Asia Para-Archery Cup next year. The city is also set to co-host the 2029 World Police and Fire Games alongside Gandhinagar and Ekta Nagar.

India's proposal highlights its commitment to a full medal programme, including wrestling, shooting, archery, kabaddi, and kho-kho, in contrast to the scaled-down 2026 Glasgow Games. Indian Olympic Association officials, including IOA President P. T. Usha and Joint Secretary Kunal, will represent the country during the formal announcement. Interim Commonwealth Sport President Dr. Donald Rukare described Ahmedabad's bid as "inspiring," while the global body praised India's sporting legacy and capacity to host a Games reflecting scale, diversity, and the Commonwealth values. The official announcement is expected around 6:30 p.m. IST.

India Preparing in Full Swing to Host 2036 Olympics: Mandaviya

JAIPUR

Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said India is steadily advancing towards its vision of becoming a developed nation and is preparing comprehensively to host the Olympic Games in 2036. Speaking at the opening ceremony of the fifth Khelo India University Games at the Sawai Man Singh Stadium, he emphasised that a strong sports ecosystem has been built under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mandaviya said flagship initiatives such as the Khelo India School Games, Youth Games and University Games are designed to identify promising talent at the grassroots level. Selected athletes, he noted, are being trained at specialised sports schools and Centres of Excellence, helping create a pipeline of world-class competitors capable of representing India at the highest levels. Hosting the 2036 Olympics, he added, would propel Indian sports to new heights and further strengthen the nation's global sporting presence. Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, who also addressed the ceremony, said the University Games are being conducted across seven divisions of the State, bringing together thousands of talented young athletes from across the country. He described the event not merely as a competition but as the starting point of many athletes' journey toward larger dreams, including participation in the Olympics. Highlighting the transformative power of sports, Sharma said it fosters discipline, perseverance and the courage to face challenges. Quoting Swami Vivekananda, he urged the youth to "arise, awake and move forward to conquer new heights." He affirmed that both the Centre and the State governments are committed to promoting sports and providing athletes with the necessary infrastructure and opportunities to excel.

Medvedev, Bopanna Lead India's World Tennis League Debut

BENGALURU

India is set to make a grand entry into the World Tennis League (WTL) as Bengaluru gears up to host the exhibition tournament from December 17-20, featuring some of the world's top tennis stars. The League unveiled the team compositions, highlighting a star-studded lineup including Daniil Medvedev, Rohan Bopanna, Denis Shapovalov, Elina Svitolina, Nick Kyrgios, Gael Monfils, and Paula Badosa. World No. 13 and 2021 US Open champion Daniil Medvedev will headline the Game Changers Falcons alongside India's doubles ace Rohan Bopanna, Magda Linette of Poland, and young Indian talent Sahaja Yamalapalli. Bopanna's inclusion is expected to boost local interest and provide homegrown flair to the event. Other teams include the VB Realty Hawks with Canada's Bhambri, Shapovalov, India's Yuki Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi; the Ukraine's Svitolina, and Aussie Mavericks Kites featuring Nick Kyrgios, Dhakshineshwar Suresh, Marta Kostyuk, and India's Ankita Raina; and the AOS Eagles comprising Gael Monfils, Sumit Nagal, Paula Badosa, and Shrivalli Bhamidipaty.

Notably, 2022 Wimbledon champion Elina Rybakina, who recently won the WTA Finals in Riyadh, will not feature in the tournament, leaving Svitolina as Ukraine's representative.

The WTL aims to blend global tennis stars with emerging local talent, providing fans a unique competitive and entertaining format. Bengaluru's hosting of the event is part of India's increasing push to bring international tennis exhibitions to the country, while also offering Indian players the chance to test themselves against world-class opponents.

With top-ranked players in action and India's doubles specialists like Bopanna featuring prominently, the inaugural WTL event promises to be a spectacle that could mark a significant milestone in India's tennis calendar.

Fans can look forward to four days of high-octane tennis and international sporting flair in the city.

10-Man Everton Stuns Man United 1-0 at Old Trafford

MANCHESTER

Everton produced a remarkable victory over Manchester United, winning 1-0 at Old Trafford despite being reduced to 10 men early in Premier League clash. The game will be remembered for Everton midfielder Idrissa Gueye's red card after striking teammate Michael Keane in the 13th minute, an incident confirmed by VAR as violent conduct.

The only goal of the match came in the 29th minute when Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall unleashed a superb 18-meter strike, giving the visitors an advantage that they would defend with grit and determination for the remainder of the game. Despite United's dominance in the second half, firing 25 shots at Jordan Pickford's goal, Everton's defence held firm, with the goalkeeper producing several crucial saves. United coach Ruben Amorim admitted that his side failed to match Everton's intensity. "They were the better team, with 11 players or 10," he said. The defeat marked United's first since losing 3-1 to Brentford almost two months ago and ended a 47-game unbeaten run at Old Trafford against visiting teams with fewer than 11 players. Dewsbury-Hall downplayed the Gueye incident, calling it "a moment of madness" and praised his team's response. "We could easily have crumbled, but it made us grow as a team," he said. Gueye publicly apologized to Keane, teammates, staff, and fans, taking full responsibility for his actions and vowing it would not happen again.

Mick Schumacher Joins IndyCar with Rahal Letterman Lanigan

BENGALURU

Mick Schumacher, son of seven-time Formula One champion Michael Schumacher, is set to race in the U.S. next year after signing with Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing (RLL) for the 2026 IndyCar season. The 26-year-old German, who has spent the last two years competing with Alpine in the World Endurance Championship (WEC), will now tackle America's iconic ovals and road courses, including the Indianapolis 500.

Schumacher lost his F1 seat with Haas at the end of 2022 and has since built experience in endurance racing, giving him a diverse motorsport background. With six of IndyCar's 17 races held on ovals or super-speedways, RLL has already planned an oval test to help Schumacher adapt to the high-speed, banked circuits that are a hallmark of American open-wheel racing.

"Having both an F1 and endurance background, and having competed in various racing series over the years, I have insights and knowledge that I am sure will contribute to a great partnership," Schumacher said. "I was also immediately excited about the car and the American way of motorsport, which is more about pure and direct racing, and it is precisely this aspect that I am very much looking forward to."

RLL co-owner Bobby Rahal praised Schumacher's performance during a test on the Indianapolis road course. "He impressed every single team member. Everyone walked away from that event determined to do what we could to bring Mick into our program," Rahal said, highlighting Schumacher's adaptability and potential to make an impact in IndyCar.

The 2026 IndyCar season is scheduled to start on March 1, marking Schumacher's first full season in American open-wheel racing. His move adds a high-profile name to the series and brings added global attention to IndyCar, while also offering the German driver a new challenge in a competitive and fast-paced racing environment.

SPORTS FUTURE INDIA

Next Decade Will Belong to Indian Sports: Bindra

ARPORA, (GOA)

Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra believes India is on a steady path to becoming a global sports hub and that the next decade will witness unprecedented growth in the sector. Speaking at the Chess World Cup in Arpora, Bindra said the country's ambition to host the 2036 Olympics is both timely and essential for long-term development.

"I think there is no doubt about it that the Olympic Games will come to India. It is only a matter of time," he said, stressing the importance of the current bid for the 2036 Games. Bindra noted that while multiple countries are vying to host the Olympics, India's effort is part of a broader journey to strengthen sports culture nationally.

The former shooter highlighted recent initiatives, including the sports governance bill, as signs of a more organised approach towards developing sports. "Even if we don't win the bid, sport must win and move forward," he said, emphasising that the bid itself should catalyse positive change.

Bindra is optimistic about India's youth and sees growing engagement in sports both as participants and spectators. He believes school-level opportunities are critical for nurturing talent and promoting healthy lifestyles. "When children get more chances to play, not just to become champions but to experience sport, values and healthier habits are instilled," he said.

According to Bindra, expanding access to sports at the grassroots will naturally increase participation at elite levels, ensuring a stronger pipeline of future athletes.

He concluded that with structured planning, increased investment, and a focus on broad-based participation, India's next decade can indeed be a transformative era for sports.

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